

Sharp decline in oil imports helps Britain to £31m surplus

Britain had a provisional surplus on its current account of £31m last month, a sharp improvement on the freakish deficit of £31m in January. A deficit of £18m on actual trading was more than offset by a £220m surplus on "invisibles" such as tourism. Imports for the month were down £383m and there

was a big drop of £104m in oil imports. The figures brought heavy buying of sterling and the Bank of England intervened to hold down the parity of the pound. However, exports fell in volume terms in February by 2 per cent, with heavy falls in some sectors.

Heavy buying of sterling

By David Noyes
Economics Correspondent

Britain's current account

the rest of the wowitz with

back into surplus last month as the deficit on our trade fell sharply from its freakishly bad

January level.

During February, the latest figures show that there was a provisional surplus of £31m on the current account, which was made up of a £18m deficit on trade in goods and a £220m surplus on "invisibles" mostly services such as transport and tourism. During January the current account deficit was £31m.

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The February figures are made to look all the better because the January results were so bad, but there does seem little doubt that slowly and surely the long-awaited improvement in our balance of payments performance is happening. During the three months to the end of February the trade deficit (sometimes called the "visible" deficit) was £935m compared with £1,134m in the previous three months.

Most of the improvement in February is accounted for by a sharp drop in imports, notably for oil. Total imports in the month were down £383m, of

which £104m was accounted for by the drop in oil imports.

Two factors were at work here almost certainly and it is quite likely that a third played a part.

One of the drop is a statistic fact that now based on the were increased export figures of the seasonal averaging system which found this year-long Christmas holiday hard to cope with. The oil import figure had also been expected to decline because there had been considerable speculative stock-building to beat the price rise by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The third possible restraining factor is the general flatness of the economy, which would make any sharp increase in imports hard to explain. Since the stabilization of the pound has led to import prices not rising as fast as late last year, the fact that the volume of imports fell back led to a sharp drop in the total cost of what we buy abroad.

Much more worrying than this is that exports actually fell in volume terms in February by 2 per cent, with dramatic falls in some sectors.

The troubled motor industry had a 94 per cent fall in the volume of its exports during the three months ending in

February, and manufacturers which traditionally form the backbone of exports, rose in volume terms during the same period by only 1 per cent - well below the Government's hopes.

Although the steady of the pound means that export prices in sterling are no longer rising as fast as late last year, there is still no real sign of any export growth to take the economy out of recession.

Long-term exports grow later of growth based on the rate of the United Kingdom's trade and in holding on to its success a time of increasing competition for world markets.

The current consensus seems

to be that exports can be expected to rise but that the lag between devaluation and a boost in total sales overseas is longer than used to be thought likely.

However, there is no doubt

about two strongly positive influences working on the balance of payments.

One is the growing surplus on invisibles, which has risen sharply as devaluation has increased the sterling worth of foreign earnings and lured more tourists to Britain.

The second bonus comes from the growing production of North Sea oil, which is already reducing the country's import bill.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

The view westwards from the top of the 600ft National Westminster Tower, in the City of London, which was topped out yesterday. The £72m building will take two more years to complete.

Court ruling setback to Bonn nuclear energy plans

By Christopher Walker
Belfast

The Provisional IRA yesterday launched a series of bomb attacks against Belfast's shopping precinct, which is ringed by a 10ft steel fence and guarded by troops and civilian

searchers.

Four bombs exploded at

warehouses causing a panic. Although no one was received there

The Provisional IRA's responsibility for the attack is not yet clear, but it is believed to be for two bombs inside one of Belfast's remaining hotels, which was later destroyed by fire. Four terrorists escaped after a chase by the police.

Later in the afternoon a 100lb bomb in a stolen newspaper van exploded between the city's main courthouse and Crumlin Road jail. The prison doors were severely damaged but no injuries were reported.

Under certain conditions, a "national catastrophe" after a breakdown in the reactor could not be excluded, the judges concluded. The possibility was regarded as remote, but the potential consequences were so appalling that the risk was too great. The Court also had "serious reservations" about plans for evacuating the area in the event of a dangerous breakdown.

Administration courts, alien to Anglo-Saxon law, deal with disputes between the citizen and all levels of government. This case, which lasted two years, was brought by citizens' action groups against nuclear energy and also by local municipalities.

The Baden-Württemberg state government immediately announced that it would appeal to the state's High Court for Administration.

The final court of appeal, if it regarded itself as competent in such a case, could be the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe.

Whatever the outcome of the appeal or appeals, today's decision has created a precedent which could put West German nuclear energy plans, already in serious difficulties for other reasons, back for several years.

Wyl in perspective, page 7

Father hijacks jet for child

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, March 14.—A Spanish Iberia Boeing 727 airliner with 30 passengers and a crew of seven, hijacked by an Italian on a flight from Barcelona to Majorca, landed here this evening and was directed to the military section of the airport. It refuelled at 218 per cent.

Tories claim that the 8.4 per cent prediction had something to do with winning the last election, but yesterday, with the boot on the other foot, Mr Hattersley feigned a worthy scorn for such jiggery-pokery. "For what it is worth," he said, "in the time of a man who could never contemplate anyone in his right mind making such a calculation, the three-month annualized figure is 21.8 per cent."

Far more to the point, or rather to Mr Hattersley's liking, was the fact that over the past 12 months the inflation figure was 16.6 per cent, even though for the last three

months the retail price index increased by 5.4 per cent. Like all sensible politicians, however, Mr Hattersley was quick to see rainbows over the horizon, and he prophesied that if everyone remained resolute the rate of inflation would begin to fall in the summer and thereafter.

That, of course, if all went well, would invalidate the 21.8 per cent figure and the Secretary of State pointed out that during the past six months the increase in the retail price index was largely the result of sterling depreciation. Sterling was no longer falling, and as far as nationalized industries were concerned the Government had corrected most of the errors made by the Conservatives.

It was soon clear that it was not going to be Mr Hattersley's day. Mrs Oppenheim, from the Tory front bench, found some figures which she said showed that the rate of inflation had trebled during the past six months. To the Conservatives the Secretary of State advised calm. Mrs Oppenheim, he said, was being extraordinarily selective and her figures did not excite him as much as they seemed to be exciting her.

As for the rest, the Chancellor's December measures would soon be working themselves through and once a new wages round was negotiated the pot of gold would have been reached. Clearly, the sooner that moment arrived, the happier Mr Hattersley would be. Parliamentary report, page 12

Bombers strike inside Belfast security fence

By Christopher Walker
Belfast

court before being sentenced to a total of 700 years' imprisonment.

The eighth bomb of the day exploded in a derelict house near the city centre. Three people were taken to hospital suffering from shock.

The Provisional IRA's campaign against the business community continued when the public relations officer of a large electronics company in west Belfast was shot dead last night.

The shooting took place shortly after 5.30 pm as the man was leaving the premises.

It was the eighth of a series of attacks on business premises in Belfast, and it was believed to be the work of the IRA.

The company is the second largest employer in the strongly republican western district of Belfast, which has a high level of unemployment.

Censorship ruled out, page 2

Goldwater links with underworld alleged

From Peter Strafford

New York, March 14

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, the Republican presidential candidate in 1964, has been accused in a series of newspaper articles of having friendships and business alliances with leading members of the criminal underworld in his state.

In an article published today, *Wednesday*, the Long Island newspaper, and other papers say that Mr Goldwater became close friends with one of these criminal figures, whom he flew in his private aircraft, and that he intervened on behalf of another to get a lighter prison sentence for him.

The articles follow an incident last June when Mr Don Bolles, a reporter in Phoenix, was killed by a bomb planted under his car while he was investigating criminal activities in Arizona. The incident drew attention to the growing presence of big crime in Arizona and a group of 37 reporters, representing 27 different organizations, started an investigation.

Their conclusion, reported today in newspapers across the United States, is that "for close to three decades, Senator Barry Goldwater, his brother Robert, and their close friend Harry Rosenzweig, former Arizona state Republican chairman, have been dominant figures in Phoenix and most of Arizona while accepting the presence of organized crime through friendships and business alliances with mob figures."

The report gives details of the infiltration of big crime into Arizona, and particularly Phoenix. In the early 1950s, it says, Phoenix was "a small, rough-on-the-edges town".

"For years, prostitution and gambling ran open," it says.

"A dominant figure in the gambling traffic was transvestite Chicagoan Gus Greenbaum, who was a small-time underworld figure in Phoenix."

Mr Shabu Khan, aged 33, of Neal Street, Little Horton, Bradford, said his son had been bitten by a dog in Pakistan in January, died in Bradford Royal Infirmary yesterday of suspected rabies.

The boy, Ayub Khan, had been taken to the infirmary after falling downstairs but was sent home after X-rays.

The hospital said yesterday that the toddler had not been showing symptoms of the classical rabies.

Mr Shabu Khan, who was married in 1953, was a friend of both the Goldwater brothers, according to the report. He provided "plush accommodation" for them at his hotel-cum-savans in Las Vegas.

Another underworld figure was Willie Blott, who was also murdered, whom the article described as an "international expert" who won an abominable prison term in the 1940s by testifying against some Capone henchmen in a celebrated shake-down racket in the motion picture industry."

Blott, too, was a close friend of Senator Goldwater, whom he flew about the state in his aircraft and with whom Mr and Mrs Goldwater went on holiday on one occasion in Las Vegas. The article quotes Mr Rosenzweig as saying that Blott once gave him \$5,000 (£3,000), which Mr Rosenzweig put into Senator Goldwater's first Senate campaign.

Senator Goldwater refused to be interviewed while the reporters were working on the series of articles, which took about six months. He said last night that he did not want to comment, adding: "It may be the world's biggest lawsuit, so I have been very careful."

Dr Owen to tour southern Africa

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit southern Africa next month. It will be a "familiarization tour" and not an occasion to propose new initiatives, he said yesterday.

He will visit most of the countries directly concerned in a Rhodesian settlement, for talks with African and nationalist leaders, but he does not intend to go to Salisbury. It is possible that he might meet Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian leader, in Cape Town when he sees Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister—but it seems

that this is not at present on the agenda.

The decision to go to southern Africa arose from Dr Owen's talks with Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, in Washington last week, although Dr Owen realized as soon as he was appointed that he would have to go to see things for himself. He will be giving up his Easter holiday as the likely dates of his tour are around April 11 to 18.

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The decision to

2 HOME NEWS

British Rail to tell Government investment level is too low to prevent rundown in standards

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

British Rail is to tell the Government that an investment ceiling of £200m a year is totally inadequate to prevent a progressive rundown in standards and a possible reduction in track mileage in the 1980s.

The investment limit has been set until 1981, by which time both the British Railways Board and the three railway unions say the industry may be seriously run down. Although the Government has given repeated assurances that it does not want the 11,500-mile track network reduced the unions are insisting that a cut is inevitable unless there is an urgent review.

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, will attend a meeting of the British Rail joint consultative council on Monday, at which management will state that the quality of services on all but three may have to be reduced.

It will point out that it will be forced to reduce standards of cleanliness, there will be fewer and slower trains, and ultimately some services will have to be withdrawn.

The unions see the board's warning as a vindication of their long-standing claims that the Government is imposing an intolerable burden on the industry and that passengers will

face rapidly rising fares and a reduced service.

The two sides of the industry will meet on Friday to discuss the latest pay claim for railway workers. The drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) has made clear that it is opposed to a deal in line with the present £4 maximum.

There is mounting scepticism over the Government's stated intention not to cut the track mileage. The industry is being compelled to run outdated wagons and halt modernization programmes to keep within the strict investment levels.

Tough talks are to be held today with the National Union of Railways over a management plan to withdraw rail freight facilities from Hull and Grimsby docks, which the board says are losing heavily.

At Monday's talks the board will be unable to meet union demands for a categorical assurance that the size of the track network will not be cut. There are signs that a new air of cooperation brought about by the arrival of Mr Peter Parker as board chairman may be undermined.

The board will state that present investment levels are inadequate to keep pace with the rate at which the system is running down; that a pro-

gressive rundown has begun, and that track closures are ultimately unavoidable. The attendance of Mr Rodgers at the meeting is said to be confirmed, and he will not necessarily take part in discussions.

Mr Parker, in a spirited defence of the railway industry, writes in the journal of the National Union of Railwaymen of the "seductive political temptation" to take the short course of action and build up trouble for the future.

He says: "A contract should be agreed with the Government which states quite clearly the agreed price for our services and against which our actual performance year by year can be measured and on which we can be judged fairly."

Mr Parker, who has established a greater rapport with the unions than did his predecessor, Sir Richard Marsh, states: "We want to see some increased political notions originated from official thinking, like the one that Inter-City, too glossy and extravagant, and for the businessman only".

He goes on to urge the return of Freightliners to British Rail control so that British Rail can share in the growth of merchandise traffic. He wants the industry's competitive position improved by making "juggernaut lorries pay their proper share of the damage they do to roads.

Students will get dole at Easter after all

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

About 150,000 students will qualify after all for social security payments this Easter as an extra cost of at least £1m. Government attempts to prevent their claims have been thwarted by the failure to pass the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in time and by a decision of High Court last month.

The court upheld a student's appeal against a decision to award him reduced supplementary benefit, and in effect ruled that present practice is illegal. The Government does not intend to appeal, because the Bill will legalize the practice.

The Bill began its committee stage in the Lords yesterday and is expected to receive the Royal Assent on March 31. But Oxford and Cambridge universities began their Easter vacations yesterday and other students are expected to begin theirs before the Bill can take effect.

In the meantime the implications of the High Court decision will be followed by social security offices, as Lord Wells-Pestell, government spokesman on social services, made clear in the Lords yesterday. Under the ruling the changes must be made in the way students' claims are dealt with.

First, students will have £4 of their incomes from all sources disregarded in the same way as other claimants. That means that they will be entitled in a benefit of £4 a week, even if they receive the full vacation element of their grant of £11.35 a week, the same amount as their non-tuition entitlement to supplementary benefit. That part of the ruling means that some students who did not qualify before will do so now, and if 150,000 students qualify on that ground their claim will cost £1m to the public.

Secondly, singling them out, officers' clients will have to accept evidence that the general contribution is not paid, before they can have it met through benefit. Any contribution parents make in kind by providing meals or clothing will be taken into account in assessing benefit.

If the Bill is delayed further, students will be able to continue claiming benefit, and the extra cost might be up to £3m. When the Bill becomes law only handicapped students will have part of their income disregarded, but the amount will be reduced to £2 a week.

The student's grant system was changed at the start of the present academic year to give students a vacation element equivalent to their supplementary benefit entitlement during the Christmas and Easter vacations. The change was intended to prevent single non-householder students from claiming benefit during the short vacations because the number doing so was growing greatly. Last Easter 170,000 students claimed benefit. It is not intended to prevent students from claiming during the long summer vacation.



Recycling: An imaginative attempt to improve the urban environment is taking place alongside the Grand Union Canal, Paddington, London. (John Young writes) A tennis court, an open-air theatre, craft workshops, flower and vegetable gardens. The work is sponsored by the London Environmental Committee for the Silver Jubilee.

Cut in mortgage relief urged on the Cabinet

Four ministers, including Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, spent ninety minutes yesterday with a delegation from the Labour Party's national executive which is trying to persuade the Government to restrict tax relief on mortgages in the Budget.

The deputation of 19, led by Mr Alford, Labour MP for Saltford, East, defended council

Budget trouble for wife of Chancellor

Mrs Healey, wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, often sends her husband shopping so that he can keep in touch with prices. But she admits to having difficulty with her housekeeping budget.

"I can't budget my house-

keeping regularly every week," she says. "Some weeks Denis is out to dinner three to four times, or suddenly may have to have 45 children to tea, but I was brought up in a shambles the way we are. I know now that I have to economise. One of my weaknesses is coffee, but if the price goes on increasing I shall have to give that up."

In an article in *Woman* magazine, on marriage, to the most unpopular man in Britain, she says her other weakness is chocolate. "I hide the paper because, if Denis knew, he'd guess why I was putting on weight."

Mrs Healey tries hard to keep her husband in touch with prices. On the way to their country cottage she sends him into a fish shop for half a pound of cod and half a dozen eggs.

But he was horrified by the rising cost of living recently when he gave his daughter and son-in-law new carpets, curtains and household tools. "He had not bought that kind of thing for years," she says.

"We don't live extravagantly. We may treat ourselves now and again to some trout or an avocado pear, and we do have a heavy milk bill, because Denis drinks more than a pint a day."

The trial continues today.

Callaghan phone-in date angers Opposition

By Michael Hanfield

Political Reporter

Strong representations have been made to the BBC by Conservative leaders over television interviews with the public that the Prime Minister is to have in the Nationwide programme on March 24.

Mr Callaghan's acceptance of an invitation to appear in the programme on that date, a week before the crucial Birmingham Sedgefield by-election, became known on Sunday, and last night the Liberal Party joined in the protest.

The Conservative Central Office and the Shadow Cabinet object to the timing. They have no complaints against the BBC, which arranged the programme some weeks before the by-election date was announced, but they think Mr Callaghan's television appearance at that time would be unfair to other parties.

Shadow ministers recognize that the nature of the programme, in which Mr Callaghan will answer questions from viewers, is a regional programme two days later. They will be selected on the basis of the relevance of their questions to the earlier interview.

That will last up to 20 minutes but there is expected to be more flexibility about the second programme. It will not be a phone-in on the lines of President Carter's, as the BBC is careful to emphasise, but a carefully selected cross-section of viewers BBC studios around the country.

The Conservatives are suggesting that the BBC should postpone Mr Callaghan's appearance until after the by-election.

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Chief Whip, said last night that he had written to the BBC to ask for assurances that similar opportunities would be given to all parties in the period up to polling day.

Remaining questions: Mr Callaghan's acceptance of an invitation to appear on the Nationwide on March 22, when he will be interviewed by Robert Mackenzie and Frank Bough, about his first year as Prime Minister; (Kenneth Goring writes).

Only about a dozen viewers out of thousands who are expected to telephone after his appearance will get the chance to question him in the same programme two days later. They will be selected on the basis of the relevance of their questions to the earlier interview.

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Reassuring the public

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

A new approach to the introduction of nuclear energy, moving cautiously ahead are supported by a new report from a group set up by the Royal Society, including Sir Brian Flowers, former chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, and Sir Ian Cottrell, former Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government and formerly of the Atomic Energy Authority. The group recommends permission to be given for necessary planning stages, without prejudicing safety and environmental difficulties to be resolved before the final construction phase of CFR-1.

Dr Marsham explains the technical and commercial pitfalls of presenting that the fast-breeder reactor proposal is just another power station. An assessment of the project had been made, but the cost had not been met, the work needed to provide special fuel, the superfluous use of land, the amount of public money, and the ability of the industry to succeed in such a venture.

His ideas come on the eve of a Commons debate tomorrow on another of the controversial nuclear issues, with first stage of the Nuclear Flingue Bill, embracing provisions for expansion of the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria.

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Bad behaviour by players affects football crowds'

From Our Correspondent

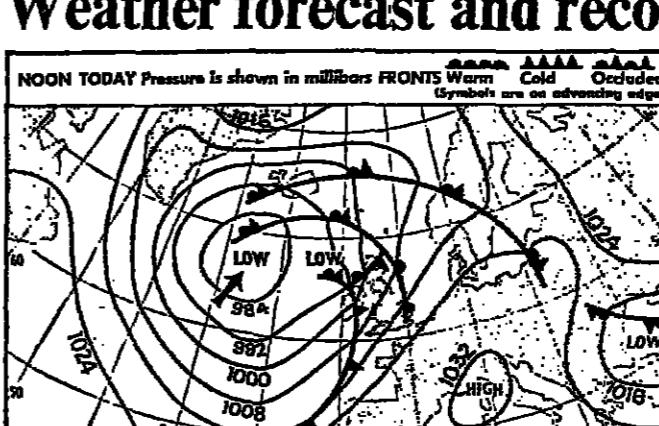
The need for greater sportsmanship on the field of play rather than a "win-at-all-costs" mentality is urged in a memorandum of evidence by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to the Government's working party on football crowd behaviour, set up in Scotland under the chairmanship of Mr McElhone, an Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office. It says that the loss of "moral" in the game has led to "confrontations and violence".

The convention, representing all regional, district and islands authorities, states that bad behaviour by players is likely to affect crowd's behaviour.

"Over the years there seems to have arisen increasing disciplinary problems with players on the field," the statement, issued in Glasgow yesterday, says. "Players have a responsibility to their clubs and to their supporters to ensure that their conduct is sportsmanlike and disciplined."

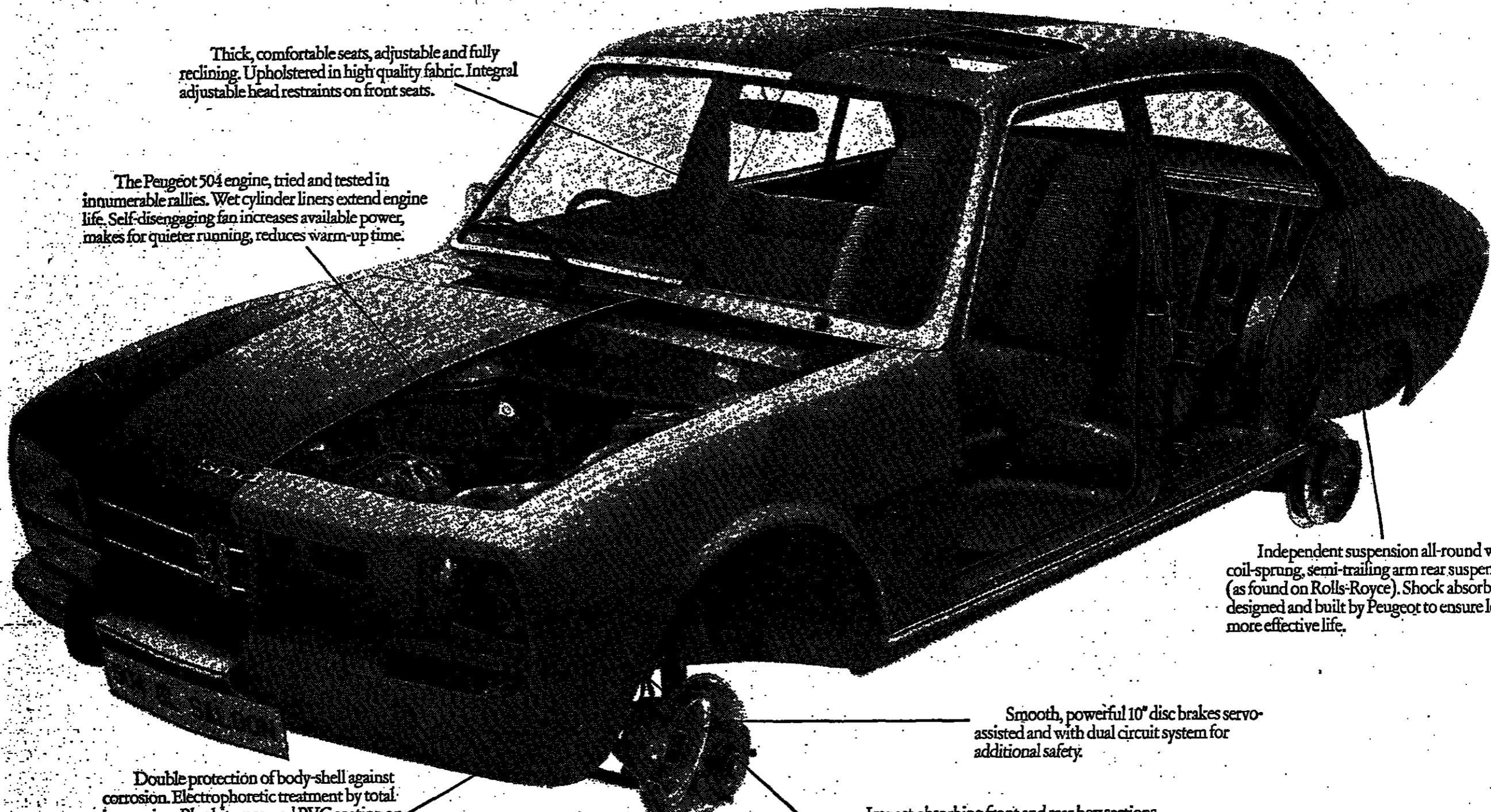
The quality of refereeing is regarded as "fairly crucial" in maintaining order both on and off the field. The report suggests that, instead of being obliged to refrain from making public comment, referees should be allowed to discuss after a match any decision that appeared to be controversial.

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Weather forecast and recordings

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The Milan Fair Organization declines responsibility for any changes in the dates announced as above by the respective Committees of these Exhibitions and Trade Shows.

HOME NEWS

'Pay benefit to household rather than individual'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Official figures may exaggerate the extent of income inequality, particularly among poor families, the first report from an important study of poverty suggests today. By ignoring the number of people in each household, official statistics underestimate the amount of income available to the poorest tenth in Britain, the report says.

The authors suggest that alleviating poverty would be much cheaper and less demanding if social security was restricted to households rather than individuals or couples, with total incomes below the poverty line. That would involve a sharp change in administrative practice and social habits because it would mean that households would have to assume financial responsibility for all their members.

The report says that when official statistics ignore the size of a household the poorest tenth have incomes of only 29 per cent of the median. But allowing for the number of adults and children in each household raises their incomes to 45 per cent of the median.

That finding is based on a statistical analysis by two economists, Mr G. C. Pileggi and Mr P. S. Langley, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, whose wider study on poverty is supported by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The two economists assumed that children cost less to keep than adults, and weighted scales accordingly for their analysis. Although they used data from the 1971 Family Expenditure Survey, they are convinced that later developments have not altered the likely results that a more recent analysis would provide.

They say in a note published by the Royal Statistical Society today that their method is a better guide to living standards because smaller incomes tend to be received by smaller households. The degree of inequality in living standards is exaggerated when looking at statistics on household incomes at their face value, and the poor are not so far behind the rest of society as appears from official figures.

The suggestion that we should return to some kind of household means test was greeted with alarm yesterday by experts who remembered the experience of it during the two world wars. Then, as now, men who were denied any assistance because they had unmarried sons at work were forced to evict them in order to receive any kind of income from the state.

The analysis itself was dismissed as "sheer nonsense" yesterday by Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group. He said that studies in Europe, the United States and Canada had shown that children cost as much to keep as adults, while adolescents took up a larger proportion of family incomes than their parents.

Secrets case remand

John Berry, aged 33, a former corporal of Alexandra Park Road, Wood Green, London, was remanded on bail by magistrates at Tottenham yesterday, until March 26, charged under the Official Secrets Act with passing classified information to two journalists.

Women's colleges at Oxford fear second-class status

By Diana Geddes

Whatever the outcome of next term's vote by the Oxford University whether the present restrictions on co-residence should be removed, the five women's colleges are almost certain to be the losers in the long run.

Congregation, the university's assembly of residents, MAs, voted last week by 88 votes to 85 in favour of a resolution that the university should no longer withhold consent from amendments to college statutes that would enable a college to admit members of either sex.

While recognizing that the continuation of some single-sex undergraduate colleges and an orderly process of change were in the interests of the university as a whole, the resolution stated that the maintenance of an "appropriate balance" in the number of places at mixed and single-sex colleges should be the responsibility of individual colleges, not of the university.

The closeness of the vote, however, prompted opponents of the resolution to seek successfully the requisition of a postal vote which is to be held next term. While agreeing that more places should be made available for women undergraduates at Oxford, many fear that such an uncontrolled move toward co-residence would mean that the women's colleges would be relegated to a second-class status.

Mr John Lucas, fellow of Merton College and leader of the resolution's opponents, said: "On the face of it the resolution is very bland. But it is being construed by a good many of the men's colleges as the starting pistol for a race to go co-residential and to grab the best girls for themselves, without consideration of the interests of the other colleges or of the university as a whole."

More than ten of the 18 single-sex men's undergraduates colleges wanted to take in girls as soon as possible, he said.

That together with the five that are already mixed would be enough to "sink" the women's colleges.

Instead of being head of their own particular river, with precious institutions of their kind in the country, they will be at the bottom of the river, with precious little prospect of ever getting out of the last division", Mr Lucas said.

When it was decided in 1972

that Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, Wadham and St Catherine's

should be permitted to admit women as undergraduates from October, 1974, it was agreed

that only a limited number of women should be accepted each year for an initial five-year experimental period, after which

more than a tenth since 1974, are being forced to take in "lower quality" girls; 43 per cent of applicants were awarded places this year, compared with 36 per cent in 1973.

The mixed colleges can afford to be highly selective with their female candidates: for the past two years only 30 per cent of applicants have been awarded places. The women's colleges, on the other hand, which have increased their number of undergraduate places by more than a tenth since 1974, are being forced to take in "lower quality" girls; 43 per cent of applicants were awarded places this year, compared with 36 per cent in 1973.

The mixed colleges would try to best the men at their own game by opening their doors to men. But, it is pointed out, unlike women, men are reluctant to enter an educational establishment that is entirely dominated by members of the opposite sex. The women's colleges are also inherently less attractive than many of the older and much wealthier men's colleges with their greater prestige, beautiful buildings, extensive playing fields and well stocked libraries.

About half of all male applicants to women's colleges would be likely to be second-rate, it is thought. Nevertheless Lady Margaret Hall has just decided to admit male undergraduates in an attempt to continue to attract women in sufficient numbers to be able to keep up its present very high standards. It is to amend its statutes so as to be able to admit men at all levels.

In 1973 women accounted only for 20 per cent of the undergraduates at Oxford. This year the five mixed colleges took in 239 women, almost half the total intake (or 565) at the women's colleges and the proportion of women among undergraduates has now risen to 27 per cent. But it is still a long way short of the average for all British universities of 36 per cent.

Whether the extension of co-residence at Oxford comes in the form of a mad rush by the men's colleges anxious about being left behind as what one college dean described as "a small rump of hearties and homies", or whether it is phased in over the years in an orderly way, the fate of the women's colleges seems to be sealed. True, there will always be some women who prefer to live and study in an all-women's college, but they are unlikely ever to be enough to have much effect.

As Mr David Stockton, fellow of Brasenose, said: "It is now just a question of how far you can cushion the women's colleges from the inevitable but fleeting effect they are going to get."

Day-nursery staff 'lack multiracial experience'

By a Staff Reporter

Six to 7 per cent of all children born in Britain now have mothers who were born in the New Commonwealth. In many cities the proportion is much higher.

Yet, according to a pamphlet published yesterday, staff in day nurseries that provide for the most disadvantaged under-fives feel that they have had virtually no training for working in multiracial groups and get little help in meeting the specific needs of children from ethnic minorities.

The pamphlet is published by the Community Relations Commission, which collected the views of staff in 33 day multiracial nurseries. All the staff feel that they need more knowledge of how to deal with language "difficulties" facing Asian non-English speakers and black children speaking non-standard dialects.

"Ethnic-minority children have special health needs. They are susceptible to rickets and illnesses that rarely affect white children, the pamphlet says. Nursery staffs need to know about their diets."

Many staff agree that the children need special help in establishing a secure cultural identity. And their parents also need help.

The commission says that no preschool project will succeed in furthering the welfare and development of young ethnic-minority children unless parents are closely involved in setting up and managing preschool projects, and planning services.

Almost all the staff agree that recruiting staff from the minority groups is helpful to children, parents and white staff. The commission recommends changes in both pre-service and in-service training for all college students to prepare them for work in multi-ethnic groups.

Caring for under-fives in a multiracial society, (Community Relations Commission, 15, Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HN, 60p).



Man in the news: Mr David McNee

A boost for the 'bobby on the beat' in London

By Clive Bourrell
Crime Correspondent

If Mr David McNee, the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, gets his way in London is going to be better for those who live there, tough for the police who have to work there, and downright impossible for criminals who hope to commit crime there.

That was made painfully plain at Scotland Yard's briefing room yesterday when Mr McNee, aged 51, issued his "statement of intent" on assuming the post vacated by Sir Robert Mark, commissioner for the past five years.

The people who live in London, he said, were entitled to expect to be able to walk the streets without fear of attack, but in return parents should assume their full responsibilities by controlling their children.

Policemen should look smart and tidy—he refrained from

criticizing long-haired police men—to command respect. Corruption, where it may exist, will be rooted out. Officers who drink on duty will have to wash their step: "I do not think it is right for officers to smell of drink when on duty."

"It has been suggested that I am a stern disciplinarian. I prefer to see myself as a person always seeking to improve standards, and my aim is to achieve the highest possible standard for the force. I confidently believe that this is precisely what the public would want of me, and it is my resolve that they should not be disappointed."

The engaging smile on his face turned grim when he referred to his nickname—"Hammer".

"I have been called the Hammer of the underworld", he said. "I did not know that I had this name until Fleet Street resurrected it. As long as it is kept in that context I am quite happy."

That remark brought radiant smiles from many senior detective officers I spoke to last night. For the past five years, under Sir Robert Mark, most CID men have felt that their "special status" which in fact never existed—was being eroded. Some detectives believe that Mr McNee will restore them to an elite grade.

But Mr McNee made it clear at a press conference yesterday that he regarded as the most valuable man in the force the constable on the beat.

"I look on the bobby on the beat as the most valuable resource we have, and I shall be looking for ways of releasing as many men as is possible for beat duties", he said.

He also allowed himself to flirt with politics for a moment, when asked for his opinion of the demand by many police officers for the right to strike.

"It would sadden me greatly if we had the right to strike", he said, adding that he hoped that a fair settlement could be reached between the Government and the police. He did suggest, however, that that was likely to be achieved only

if the new charges were dropped.

Lord Allen, said, consumers who have changed to dealer alternatives to save fuel costs would be directly affected. Gas users alone were being asked to bear the cost of reducing the public-sector borrowing requirement.

by the Police Federation representatives returning to the negotiating table with the Police Council. The police broke off all contact with the council seven months ago and have, since refused to meet them.

He thought the police must educate the public more than they had done in the past about police matters and advise them about our laws.

"I do not think that there is any sense in trying to enforce a law that the public do not appreciate", he said. "I would see my role as a commissioner to bring the police and the public very much closer together."

After 30 minutes in the Yard's briefing room it was clear that London not only had a new commissioner of police, but a very different one. Sir Robert's deep, thought-provoking ideas and answers were suddenly replaced with clipped, but nevertheless forceful remarks heralding a new man with a different style, but obviously with the same objectives.

Almost all the staff agree that recruiting staff from the minority groups is helpful to children, parents and white staff. The commission recommends changes in both pre-service and in-service training for all college students to prepare them for work in multi-ethnic groups.

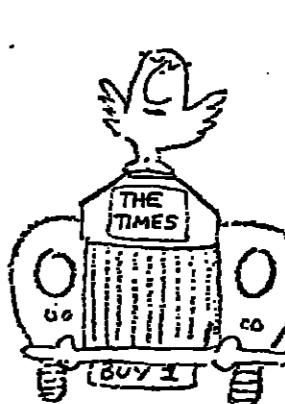
Caring for under-fives in a multiracial society, (Community Relations Commission, 15, Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HN, 60p).

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Were you born thirty years too late to become an Army Officer?



It wouldn't be surprising if you thought so. Popular novelists, film makers and artists have portrayed the Second World War in high-flown and romantic style.

Listening to them, you'd think the conflict was an endless 'Guns of Navarone' with Officers charging across battlefields winning pocketfuls of medals.

Heroic deeds were performed, no doubt about that. But in between the action, soldiers settled down to long periods of methodical preparation: weapon training, patrolling, assault tactics, setting up defences.

Although an Officer's job is much more complex today, the work, as ever, is unglamorous, often difficult and always physically and mentally demanding. You'll have to prove you're equal to it if you want to become an Officer.

To explain exactly what this means, we've mapped out a day in the life of a Lieutenant in his early twenties. Even at this age, you'll be responsible for about thirty men.

Before giving the orders, decide what they should be.

Your working day will start at 7.45. By then, you've had your breakfast and you're on parade.

We hope you're wide awake. A soldier wants your opinion on repairs to some vital equipment. It could be worth thousands of pounds, so you'd better talk sense.

Next, half an hour's exercise. Your men mutter darkly about the tedium of road running.

Come on, think of something new—football, basketball, wrestling—then, because you're an Officer, show them how it's done.

No soldier is going to respect a podgy, armchair-loving superior who relies on a cut-glass accent to impress.

Can you lecture without sending your audience to sleep?

Around nine o'clock you're standing before your platoon with all the confidence of an after-dinner speaker.

If you're going to Ireland soon, 'How to recognise booby traps' or 'How to patrol the streets of Belfast' are essential for their safety.

During your talk, you notice two of your soldiers nodding off. Perhaps you're boring them.

Why not liven things up with slides, films, demonstrations, anything that will make it

sound new and interesting?

Whatever you decide, it's up to you to get hold of the people and equipment you need.

A break for coffee gives you the chance to discuss mutual problems with fellow Officers.

The helicopter you're using in tomorrow's exercise has broken down. Can someone provide you with a replacement?

You're preparing a lecture on 'Identification of wanted men'. You think the recall of faces might be higher if they were pasted onto the bodies of pretty girls. Ask around—it shouldn't be difficult to get hold of suitable pictures.

After the theory, the practice.

The rest of the morning you devote to training which will prepare your men for an enemy attack.

The enemy you've invented is using limited nuclear weapons. Your men will have to bury their equipment, dig trenches for themselves and erect screens against the flash.

Three weeks ago, they did the job in two hours. Today, you allow them an hour and three-quarters. With half an hour to go they're on schedule, so you shake them up by asking them to work in protective rubber clothing.

Looking more like astronauts than soldiers, one or two wilt under the heat and labour. Somehow, you've got to raise their spirits and maintain their enthusiasm.

In the afternoon, you intend using the rifle range but fog puts it out of action. However, you think the weather is ideal for orienteering, so you take your men out on the moors.

Your Commanding Officer, who is an unofficial observer, remarks that one of your men appears painfully slow at grasping even the rudiments of the exercise. You're aware of it, you explain, and you're giving him extra tuition.

Later in the afternoon, you'll wear your administrator's hat. Should that able young corporal be promoted? You have the feeling one of your sergeants would be against it. Hear him out before deciding.

Dear Marje,

You might then have to sort out your soldiers' personal problems.

A soldier wants to visit his sick mother who lives in a remote Scottish village. Not so easy when you're stationed in Germany. Can you get him a seat on a plane leaving in two hours?

A young recruit is worried because his wife is being harassed by a local tradesman who claims she owes him money. It may be just a misunderstanding which you can sort out on the telephone.

This brings you to five o'clock but your working day isn't necessarily over. You may decide that tomorrow's programme needs a couple of hours preparation.

Generally speaking, your life will follow this pattern for at least two years. We reckon it will take you that long to convince an experienced group of soldiers that you're worth respecting and obeying at all times.

If you think you could do that, and you'd enjoy doing it, we'd like to hear from you.

Write to Major C. N. B. Wellwood, Dept. A10, Army Officer Entry, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

Tell him your age, your educational qualifications and why the Army interests you.



Army Officer

HOME NEWS

Consumer groups want EEC's 'exorbitant' food prices resisted

By Hugh Clayton

Consumer groups issued seven demands yesterday for restraint of EEC food prices as a government survey showed that consumption of many popular foods fell last year. Families ate less beef, lamb, butter and potatoes than in 1975, and more fish, carrots, breakfast cereals and rice. They drank less milk and more beer.

The groups said in a message to all MPs that EEC food prices were much too high. "For some foods we pay two or three times world prices."

The groups varied from the heavyweights of the consumer lobby, such as the Consumers' Association, to Help the Aged and the Child Poverty Action Group.

The campaign was co-ordinated by the National Consumer Council, members of which are appointed by ministers. The groups called on the Government to reject attempts by the EEC Commission to raise "the already exorbitant prices that consumers have to pay for some Common Market foods".

They appealed to ministers to fight for a freeze on EEC support prices for dairy produce and to resist reassurance for devaluation of the "green pound", the device with which

Emigration dreamers face serious restrictions

By a Staff Reporter

Community farm prices are expressed in sterling.

"Food prices have already inflated by 23.5 per cent in the last 12 months—against 16.5 per cent for prices generally," they said. "While wages are restrained, and the country is at counter-inflation policy, it is wrong to allow the effects of Europe's common agricultural policy to undo the good."

They called for opposition to efforts by the commission to make food processors use milk where they would normally use products based on vegetable oils. They wanted a freeze on sugar prices combined with rejection of a commission plan to tax high-fructose corn syrup, an alternative sweetener made from starch.

They wanted a freeze on cereal support prices, because of the high cost of protecting European growers against imports from outside, and a freeze on beef. They insisted that Britain should not accept any EEC-inspired rises in the price of food except those entailed by transition to full Community levels of farm support.

The National Consumer Council said those alone would add 12p a pound to butter in Britain this year, 5p to cheese, 4p to beef, 2p to a 3lb bag of flour, 1p to a large loaf and between 1p and 2p to a pound of pork, a pound of bacon and a dozen eggs.



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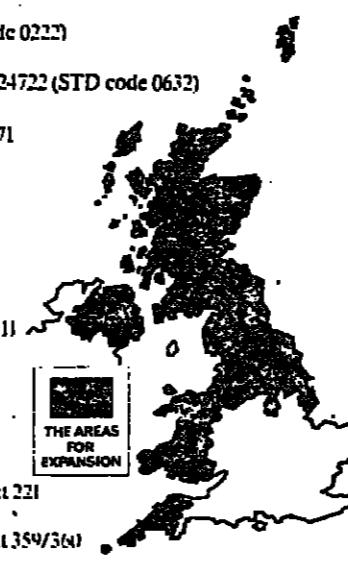
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Please send me full details of the benefits available in the Areas for Expansion.

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In brief

Indian printing plant wrecked

Hooligans have caused thousands of pounds of damage to the offices of *Def Peeta*, an Indian newspaper, at Rochester, Kent. Slogans were daubed over walls, pots of paint empaled over printing machinery and photographic material thrown into the street.

The damage was discovered yesterday by Mr Taran Purewal, the editor. He said the paper sells 30,000 copies throughout the world each week.

"We have no hope of printing this week's issue. Type-segments in Punjabi have been smashed and stolen. These people are obviously anti-immigrant lunatics."

Police vote on strikes

In a poll of Lincolnshire police 73 per cent voted in favour of seeking the right to strike, but the force's 1,172 Police Federation members came out against seeking affiliation to the TUC.

Supporters fined £1,100

Fines totalling £1,100 were imposed on 15 football supporters at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday after incidents before and after the Cardiff City and Chelsea match at Cardiff on Saturday.

Wartime bomb found

A live wartime German incendiary bomb was found when a potato patch was being dug at a house near Dent, Cumbria, was collected by army experts yesterday.

Alderney colour TV

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's UHF television relay station on Alderney began transmitting yesterday, carrying the 625-line colour programmes of Channel Television towards them.

Some may even become listed buildings. The masters who built them did not neglect such features as domes and glazed brickwork, and the height of the chimney was a mark of the owner's financial standing.

To many residents even the new Oldham would not be the same without its skylines of mills on the ridges of the Lancashire-Yorkshire moors, regardless of the building of underpasses and overpasses, pedestrian precincts and tinted glass office blocks.

Mr Harris and his committee well understand the feeling. They are not against cotton mills as such, but they think there are too many of them serving little useful purpose, and they need the land for the new generation of industry taking over the Lancashire cotton belt.

Anglers' bodies found

The bodies of three out of four men missing on a fishing trip from Littlehampton, Sussex, were recovered yesterday at Ferring.

Covent Garden inquiry

A public inquiry opens today into the Greater London Council plan for the Covent Garden area.

Pike threat to trout

The coarse fishing season closed yesterday but anglers at a trout lake at Colwick, near Nottingham, have until Easter to catch pike, which are threatening the trout stock.

Probation officers oppose more early paroles

By a Staff Reporter

Any attempt by the Home Office to reduce the prison population by increasing the number of prisoners granted early parole is likely to be strongly resisted by a growing number of probation officers who already feel that the slender resources of the service are overstretched.

They fear that the basic foundations of their work, to advise, assist and befriend offenders, are being eroded and that the controlling aspect of the work, such as supervising offenders who are given non-custodial sentences, is becoming dominant.

Writing in the latest issue of the *Probation Journal*, Mr Jack Chapman, of the Inner London Probation and After Care Service, says that in view of the Government's reported intention to increase substantially the number of parolees, it was reasonable to ask not only how

the service was going to find the resources to exercise the necessary supervision but also whether it was right in principle that those resources should be freed, to the detriment of other activities.

Economic restraint meant that the service's manpower would have to stay at its present level for at least the next three years. But the demands on the service continued to grow.

"Can we win the struggle to retain our caring function against all the odds which now assail it?" Mr Chapman asks. He suggests that the service must streamline its range of responsibilities to restore its capacity to work effectively.

Any extension of parole work might prompt some to ask whether the service should continue to supervise parolees at all. It might be sufficient in many cases for them simply to report regularly to the police.

Do you know all you should about investment aid in the Areas for Expansion?

The investment aid which may be available to your company includes:

1. Capital grants of 20% or 22% for new buildings and, in many places, for new plant and machinery.
2. Loans on favourable terms or interest relief grants.
3. Factories with rent-free periods up to 2 years; options to purchase at favourable terms; low rentals.
4. Removal grants: up to 80% toward costs of moving into the Areas.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
in association with the Scottish Economic Planning Department and the Welsh Office.

TM 7/3 G

The Areas for Expansion

brief

WEST EUROPE

Italian Minister says student majority supports new violence

From Peter Nichols
London, March 14

Political violence in Italy has one through a qualitative change in the past few days and, for the first time, the country may be facing political terrorism with mass student support. Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Minister of the interior, said in an interview today.

The Communists also claim to be appalled by the new outbreak and, indeed, they were the first to suffer from the latest cycle when they failed in their attempt to discipline dissidents at Rome University.

An outstanding difference between the new violence and that of 1968 is that the police are no longer the mindless ogres of the scene, as they used to be.

Signor Cossiga was noticeably angry and passionate in his statements yesterday after visiting the policemen in hospital who were injured during Saturday's riots.

That the damage had not been much worse was due, he said, to the training and ability of the leadership of the police forces and to the prudence and courage of the men. Today a group of members of Rome's riot squad sent a message to the student organizations "in a fraternal spirit", calling on them to avoid being made use of by agitators and to isolate the provocative elements who had caused the disorders.

The tone of this highly unusual message suggests belief that the violence was the work of a small minority. Signor Cossiga takes the more bitter view that, had the majority wanted to dissociate themselves from what happened, they could easily have done so.

The *Vaccaia* newspaper, *'Osservatore Romano'*, tonight defined the new outbreak of

student violence as "the fruits of a vast campaign for subverting traditional values without putting forward new ones in particular to young people".

Tonight Signor Cossiga told Parliament of the "extreme danger" in the convergence of young people around the activities of groups dedicated exclusively to pseudorevolution and violence. He raised the question of whether the normal methods for defending public order were sufficient to deal with subversion.

Bologna, March 14.—Thousands of young leftists today paid their last respects to a student whose death in a demonstration here on Friday set off a chain of riots in cities throughout Italy over the weekend.

The coffin of Francesco Lorusso, who was shot by the police in circumstances still to be clarified, was draped in a red flag and greeted with clenched fist salutes.

The police said about 6,000 people attended the funeral. Demonstrations had been forbidden in the city except for the 300 yards of road between the church where the funeral service was held and the cemetery. Huge forces of police stood by to head off trouble.

In Rome Signor Cossiga told parliament that the Government might have to submit special legislation to deal with the trouble.

The authorities would make a detailed study of the weekend disturbances and would then "draw the necessary conclusions both on a technical level and on the level of possible legislative measures which might be deemed indispensable to halt the spiral of organized violence", he said.—Reuters.

Leading article, page 17

TV post for Bonn envoy to Britain

From Our Correspondent

Berlin, March 14

Herr Karl-Günther von Hase, the West German Ambassador in London for the past two years, has been elected director-general of ZDF, the second West German television channel based in Mainz.

He had been about to take up his new post as ambassador to the European Community in Brussels but he will now be leaving the diplomatic service for one of the most influential jobs in West Germany.

Acceptable both to the ruling Social Democrats and the Opposition Christian Democrats, he was put forward as a compromise candidate to break a political deadlock among the 36 members of the television board who represent the under and various public organizations. He got 55 votes.

Herr von Hase, aged 59, was head of the government Press Office from 1962 to 1968. Before that he was head of the press section of the Foreign Ministry.

Lost jobs temper joy over nuclear power ruling

From Dan van der Vat

London, March 14

West Germany's troubled nuclear power station project at Wyhl on the Rhine, has been the butt of local and national environmentalist protests since its inception.

The decision to build at Wyhl, as taken in 1973, and planning permission was granted in principle by the state government at the end of 1974. Protests broke out at once. Early in 1975, a local referendum showed 5 per cent in the district to be in favour of the project and 41 per cent against. As building was about to start, the protesters went to court.

In the early months of 1975, demonstrations between demonstrators and the police took place. The site was occupied, cleared and reoccupied. The German injunction was imposed in March 1975. The protesters occupied the site for most of 1975.

If Wyhl made nuclear energy a national issue, the protest gained another atomic power station at the other end of the country, at Brokdorf on the Ibe, turned it into the focus of civic protest in West Germany. The demonstrations here in the past few months have made Wyhl appear a mere sideshow.

Several times, the confrontation between police and tens of thousands of demonstrators has come within a hair's breadth of disaster.

West Germany committed itself to a nuclear power pro-

gramme after the oil crisis, in an attempt to make itself less dependent on oil. The Federal Government has already conceded that the protest movement has obliged it to think again and scale down its plans in this field.

But these are not the only difficulties Bonn has to contend with in the sphere of nuclear energy. The recent cold weather which affected much of the United States has meant that the supply of uranium from America, the principal source, has slowed down to a trickle as the Americans give priority to their own energy needs.

Then the West Germans have been forced by the Carter Administration to reconsider what would be, if it came off, an all-time record export order for eight nuclear power plants for Brazil.

This deal would have the side-effect, viewed with concern, of another atomic power station at the other end of the country, at Brokdorf on the Ibe, turned it into the focus of civic protest in West Germany. The demonstrations here in the past few months have made Wyhl appear a mere sideshow.

Several times, the confrontation between police and tens of thousands of demonstrators has come within a hair's breadth of disaster.

The choice of a site for a dump for nuclear waste is also proving extremely difficult.

EEC anger over Faroes cutback on fish catches

From David Cross

London, March 14

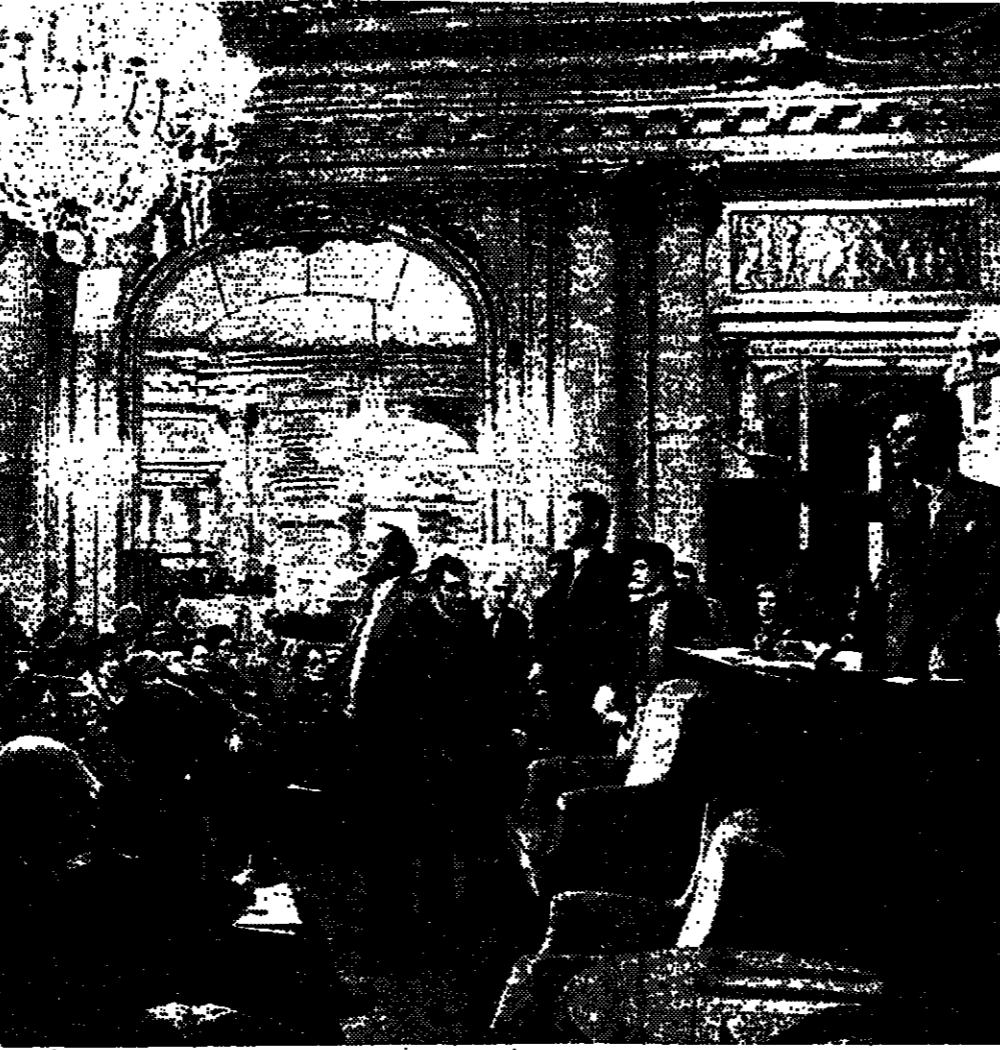
The European Community is protest to the Faroe Islands' proposed restrictions on Irish, French and West German fishermen in their waters. The Faroes' government announced last week it would allow the Community to take over 1,000 tons of cod and haddock within its 200-mile zone during a six-week period beginning tomorrow. Last year the Irish fishing fleet, alone, fished 7,000 tons of these species during the first four months.

Mr Austin Laing, director-general of the British Fishing Federation, said it would be "extremely serious" for Aberdeen, Leith and, to a lesser

extent, Grimsby if the restrictions went through. "I have been told," he said, "that it could mean the end of trawling for the Aberdeen and Leith fleets."

After today's discussions, Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the restrictions would mean "a very substantial reduction" for British fishermen. However, he was confident that the new measures would not be introduced until there had been full discussions between the Community and representatives of the Faroes.

The Faroe Islands, which lie between Scotland and Iceland, are self-governing, but their external relations are handled by Denmark, ironically in this



Fitting farewell: Before the elegant nine-century Hôtel Claridge, in the Champs Elysées, Paris, is pulled down, its fittings and furniture, including a piano on

which Chopin played in his Paris days, are being auctioned. Many of the items in the auction, which continue until March 24, are antiques.

French municipal polls strengthen Socialist-Communist alliance

From Charles Hargrave

Paris, March 14

There were two obvious winners in yesterday's first ballot of the French municipal elections: the Union of the Left and M Jacques Chirac.

There were two losers: the centrists and all the marginal parties, victims of a bipolarization between right and left which has now spread to the country's political grass roots.

There is one unknown: the ecologists, whose votes may well decide the issue in several large towns and especially in Paris, in the second ballot next Sunday.

But some commentators argue that beyond the two blocks confronting one another in the field, there is another loser, President Giscard d'Estaing himself. His champion, M Michel d'Ornano, the Minister for Industry, has beaten him in his attempt to become Mayor of Paris by M Chirac, his Gaullist challenger, who emerges from this first ballot with a comfortable lead.

Confronted with this threat, Mr Strang made it clear that his Government would support other measures suggested by the Commission to reduce the Community's chronic dairy surplus.

Whatever way it was presented, M Chirac's candidature amounted to a challenge to the President. But it was a personal, not a party, success. In the provinces, Gaullist lists did not fare appreciably better than those of the Gaullists.

Had France been electing a new Parliament instead of choosing the councils and mayors of 35,395 municipalities, the left would have had every chance of winning a majority of 4 to 5 per cent. The ecologists, with national elections more justified than for municipal polls in the past, where even in the bigger towns local personalities and issues prevailed. This time the battle was on a national basis; the progress of the left has national significance.

One man well pleased with the results of yesterday's municipal elections in France is M Charles Hernu, the 52-year-old defence spokesman of the Socialist Party. In the second ballot next Sunday, M Hernu will almost certainly be elected Mayor of Villeurbanne, the sister town of Lyons.

That in itself is not very remarkable. The Socialist Party has done well almost everywhere in France, and many towns have already elected Socialist mayors without waiting for a run-off ballot.

Besides, the present Mayor, M Etienne Gagnaire, was himself a member of the Socialist Party until he was expelled in 1967.

Now supported by the Government parties, he actually won more votes yesterday than M Hernu did. In fact, M Hernu will need the votes which went yesterday to the rival left-wing list led by a Communist, M René Desgrand.

Luckily for him M Hernu is only 1,193 votes behind M Gagnaire, and therefore will not need anything like all the 9,884 votes that went to M Desgrand; for there will almost certainly be quite a few Communist voters who refuse to turn out next Sunday, and though M Desgrand will probably advise his supporters to

transfer their votes to M Hernu, he will hardly do so with any enthusiasm.

The Communists in Villeurbanne are bitter against M Hernu and the Socialist Party, for they consider that in promoting his candidature the Socialists have broken the national agreement reached between the two parties last year.

The Socialists continue to be the main beneficiaries of the Union of the Left. But Where the Communists led the lists, they held their ground successfully and even scored gains at the expense of all the parties of the majority—at Nantes, Chalon-sur-Saône, and Montluçon, old Socialist strongholds. And in 15 "primaries" where the two parties went separately into battle, the Communists came out on top in five.

Evan Marseilles, where M Gaston Defferre, the Socialist

unionist and victor of the 1973 cantonal election, the local Socialists were at first inclined to agree with M Hernu, who spent his youth in Villeurbanne but had hardly been seen there since suddenly appeared on the scene from Paris.

The Socialists then argued that Villeurbanne "belonged" to them because some of M Gagnaire's supporters were Socialists who had gone astray and could be brought back to the fold; also that the composition of the list should take into account the spectacular growth of the Socialist Party since 1973.

The common programme of government was signed in 1972. Since then there have been three elections in Villeurbanne: the general election of March 1973, the cantonal elections of September-October 1973, and the presidential election of 1974. The last offers no guide to the relative strengths of the two main left-wing parties since they both supported the same candidate, M Mitterrand. Luckily for him M Hernu is only 1,193 votes behind M Gagnaire, and therefore will not need anything like all the 9,884 votes that went to M Desgrand; for there will almost certainly be quite a few Communist voters who refuse to turn out next Sunday, and though M Desgrand will probably advise his supporters to

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But above all, it is clear, they were determined to prove that their party had indeed overtaken the Communists in popularity. To do this, they needed some towns in which agreement on a joint list for the first ballot would not be reached, and they clearly chose Villeurbanne as one of them. This is the gamble which M Hernu appears to have taken.

M Mitterrand and his colleagues remain convinced that the left can win next year's general election only if the public sees clearly that the Socialists are in command rather than the Communists. Yesterday's results, in Villeurbanne and elsewhere, have gone a long way to provide the required demonstration.

The Communists therefore considered they had an undoubted right to provide the candidate for mayor in a joint list, and put forward M Desgrand, a well-known local trade

case, a member of the Community.

During other fisheries talks here today, the Irish Government again backed down from a confrontation with its Community partners over fishing rights. It agreed to postpone for a further fortnight the unilateral introduction of controls on the size of vessels allowed to operate.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Fish, promised to table by the middle of next month new proposals for settling the Community's internal fishing arrangements once and for all.

A final decision by the Council of Ministers would be taken by the end of June at the latest.

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OVERSEAS

Bitter personal feuds mark final days of the Indian election

From Richard Wigg

Lucknow, March 14

Bitter personal battles between Mrs Gandhi the Prime Minister, and former chief ministers and secessionist Congress leaders have dominated the election contest in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

It has 85 MP's and since independence it has been a bastion of Congress power. But party campaign managers concede that many of the ruling party's seats will become marginal ones in the general election, which begins on Wednesday.

The Congress Party is defending 72 of the seats captured in 1971, and its pro-Moscow communists allies five more.

Fighting to maintain her own position, Mrs Gandhi has deserved three tough days of campaigning.

She spent yesterday in her rural constituency of Rae Bareli, ending with a well-staged mass rally in Lucknow's Victoria Park.

Mrs Gandhi is being challenged by Mr H. N. Bahuguna, the former Chief Minister of the state, who says he was dismissed by Mrs Gandhi in 1975. Mr Bahuguna, now general secretary of the breakaway Congress for Democracy, formed by Mr Jagdish Ram, the former Agricultural Minister, is fighting a seat in Lucknow.

Another opposition candidate is Mr Chavan Singh, the author of two men in Mr Morarji Desai's Janata party alliance. Desai's Janata party, which has been driven through the

town in a jeep to a sports ground, was listened to by a respectful but unenthusiastic crowd.

She listed the factories, roads, schools built and the irrigation improvements made in the constituency. The many women in the audience, often segregated from the men, listened silently to a tired and taut looking Mrs Gandhi.

But in Lucknow Mrs Gandhi was in a fighting mood and attacked her "double crossers". She accused Mr Bahuguna of "insulting the office of Prime Minister", provoking unrest in Uttar Pradesh, and exploiting the country's backwardness for his own political ends

OVERSEAS

Korean dissident's jail plea to US not to withdraw its troops

From Peter Hazelhurst
Seoul, March 14

Making a dramatic appeal to Washington from his prison cell in Seoul, Mr Kim Dae Jung, South Korea's Opposition leader, has declared that he opposes President Carter's plans to withdraw American ground forces from the Korean peninsula.

Confounding American liberals who are proposing to link future military commitments to South Korea with the question of human rights, the Korean Opposition leader declared that he wants President Carter to maintain a military presence in Korea "at all costs".

The statement, issued through Mrs Kim who visited her husband in jail last week, indicates Opposition fears that President Kim and the people of North Korea might interpret the American move as a sign of weakness and step up military action against the South.

"We have been deprived of our freedom by this Government but we have to think of the security of our nation and people. I beg President Carter not to withdraw American ground forces", Mrs Kim quoted her husband as saying.

Speaking to *The Times* in her modest home in Seoul, Mrs Kim, who has emerged as one of the Government's most outspoken critics, said: "We are fighting for the release of our husbands and other political prisoners in South Korea, but we do not want to link the issue with American military assistance. There are other ways of helping."

"We all appreciate statements on human rights which were issued recently by President Carter and Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary. We hope that they will not only apply pressure on the Soviet Union but that they will also take up the problem of human rights in South Korea."

Suggesting that President Park's regime employs the same repressive methods as the Soviet Union, Mrs Kim said: "Sometimes I am confused by the situation—I begin to think that I am living in a communist country."

Mrs Kim, who is constantly followed by the Korean

American deported for his reports on Nigeria

From John Darnton
Nairobi, March 14

Because it was explained, my dispatches as West Africa Correspondent for The New York Times had "put Nigeria in a bad light". I was arrested and jailed in Lagos on Friday and expelled from the country next day.

Four plainclothes police from the National Security Organisation took me into custody at 12.30 pm on Friday. They searched my office and home, seized files and detained and interrogated me for eight hours. I was stripped of my clothing and personal effects and kept in a tiny barren cement cell. Released for the night, I was escorted to the airport with my family the following day and put on a flight for Kenya.

A police official, who did not identify himself, sought through questioning to ascertain my sources in Nigeria. He said only that the action was being taken on orders from above because my dispatches had put Nigeria in a bad light. He was unable, however, to cite specific examples, beyond an article describing an upsurge of piracy in Nigerian ports that was published two months ago.

Because no stories about Nigeria have appeared in The New York Times for several weeks, it was believed that the Government's action was related to a sensitive case involving the prosecution of a dissident and well-known Nigerian musician, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti.

Indonesia to buy all its arms from the West

Jakarta, March 14.—Mr Adam Malik, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said today his country would no longer order arms from communist countries but would rebuild its forces with Western supplies.

"The time has come to rebuild the Indonesian military," he said. "We have ordered warships from Holland and other weapons from Mexico. Perhaps heavy armaments from the United States will follow. We just wait for President Carter."

Much Soviet equipment, including MiG jets, became useless when the Russians stopped supplying spare parts after the abortive communist coup in Indonesia in 1965.—Reuter.

Central Intelligence Agency pointed out that the wives of political prisoners, democrats and Christian dissidents are continually hounded by the regime.

Their methods are just as crude as that of the Soviet police. Two weeks ago we attempted to hold a press conference at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches on the anniversary of the Myeongdong statement on March 1 last year."

[Mr Kim and 17 others were arrested just over a year ago after they had defied the regime's emergency regulations and called for President Park's resignation at a prayer meeting in Seoul's Myeongdong Cathedral. Mr Kim was later released.]

"Christian women and the wives of democrats who attempted to attend a special Mass at the Myeongdong Cathedral were forced into a bus and driven around the suburbs of Seoul for four hours until the service was over", Mrs Kim continued.

Fifty relatives of political prisoners were held under house arrest by brute force during the period of the anniversary. There was no law to justify the act. Police agents just surrounded our homes and used force to prevent us from leaving. No one could enter our homes, either", she added.

Mrs Kim believed that Western democracies could do much to assist a democratic struggle to restore human rights in South Korea.

"We are grateful that American and British soldiers gave their lives to preserve democracy in South Korea during the Korean War. But we are ashamed that democracy does not exist in Korea these days."

The Government claims that democratic privileges have had to be suspended because of the threat of North Korea. That is nonsense. Even at the time of the Korean War, we were ruled by a democratic Government. Elections, too, were held."

She suggested that a letter of support from President Carter and the British Foreign Secretary would bolster the fight for political rights in South Korea.

Text of deathbed statement by Professor Jan Patocka is brought from Prague to the West

'Last will' of Czech civil rights leader defends Charter campaign

By Our Foreign Staff

What is believed to be the last written statement by Professor Jan Patocka, one of the three spokesmen for the Czechoslovak civil rights Charter 77 movement has just reached the West. It is dated March 8 and was signed in the hospital in which the distinguished philosopher was admitted on March 3.

He died on Sunday as a result of a cerebral haemorrhage on Friday. On Thursday police had come to the hospital and questioned him again.

At the time of writing he would have known that new signatures were still being added to the Charter in spite of intense police pressure. The number of signatures has now reached 617 and the proportion of workers among them is increasing. Additional support has come from many who are not willing to allow their names public.

He is a shortened version of Professor Patocka's statement, the full text of which was made available by the Palach Press:

Many people ask whether Charter 77 will not lead to increased "vigilance" which in

turn will have an adverse effect on all citizens.

Let us be frank about this: in the past no conformity has yet led to any improvement in the situation, only a worsening. The greater the fear and servility the more brazen have the authorities become. There is no way to make them relax the pressure other than by showing them that injustices and discrimination are not ignored. What is needed is for people to behave at all times with dignity, not to allow themselves to be frightened and intimidated, and to speak the truth—behaviour which is impressive just because it is in such contrast to the way the authorities carry on.

The legal character of the Charter is the fact that its aim is to foster international and particularly accountable legality, the obvious refusal of the authorities to accept this principle of equality of the citizen before the law, their refusal to conduct a dialogue about the issues involved, has given us a considerable political advantage and forced our adversary to seek new methods in his struggle against us.

The authorities have realized that it is not enough to invent transparent fairy tales about anti-state centres and so-called "compromised" people. The

They must ask themselves whether those who still obey them today will be willing to do so tomorrow.

The fact is that the opponents of the Charter have felt it necessary to conduct a ferocious smear campaign regardless of truth; and that they manipulated "public opinion" to produce resolutions attacking us which has created far more sympathy for us, both at home and abroad, than we dared expect. This alone is an important result, for innocence and decent conduct are powerful political factors.

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Thus it is possible that representatives may be intensified in individual cases. People can lose even those jobs which until now seemed a safe haven—night watchmen, window cleaners, stokers, hospital orderlies, and so on. But not for long, since these jobs have to be done by somebody. And there is the important gain in the feelings of uncertainty engendered in the official mind. Our rulers

can now never be quite sure who it is they are dealing with.

The authorities have realized

that it is not enough to invent transparent fairy tales about anti-state centres and so-called "compromised" people. The

charter is not about personalities but about issues and factual arguments, and the latter have so far been completely lacking where our opponents are concerned.

We may well be asked how long we expect to keep the support of our own people if we are unable to help them except by protests on paper. And how long can we count on sympathetic abroad?

Let me try and turn this question round. Let us ask what we expect of the signing of international conventions on human, economic, social and cultural rights? Let us also ask what those who actually signed them, on both sides of the world, political divide, expected?

We believe that the signatories in many of the eastern block countries expected they would not have to change anything in their treatment of their populations and that everything would remain as before.

Others, however, expected a great deal. The ordinary people in these countries saw in these pacts a new, indeed the only, guarantee that there would be no repetition of the events of the twenties and thirties in the Soviet Union and the fifties in

our country, things which happened in spite of these states swearing by socialism and humanity and boasting the "freest constitutions in the world".

The international parts signed as a result of the Helsinki conference did bring something new, giving fresh hope to mankind. This new element explains why the charter, and the frenetic reaction to it, has evoked such interest. It showed that implementing the agreements would not be as difficult as might have been expected.

We are convinced that there is no one in the world who does not know that the Helsinki accords must be accepted if we are to escape a future of major wars and minor conflicts. But it is only now that we have come to realize just how terribly long a road it is going to be and we know it thanks to the charter. Thanks to it we also know that the world has been disappointed, painfully disappointed, in its expectations.

It is the false déroute that has been exposed, and this has caused many Western socialists and communists to raise their voices in our support, requesting

that the signatures of the charter be treated with due respect.

The eastern countries have come a long way since the 1950s in the implementation of their human rights.

Why then have they become so alarmed? Despite the harsh words and bad deeds all round, they are not barred. We can see that there has been a certain relaxation—though we would consider it still pretty difficult. The world would not have come about without the charter.

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Professor Dr Jan Patocka

Missionaries leave Zaire border area

Kinshasa, March 14.—Five more American missionaries and 10 children were evacuated yesterday from Sandoa, in the south-eastern province of Shaba, after an attack by Angola-based troops last week, the United States Embassy announced.

"We are grateful that American and British soldiers gave their lives to preserve democracy in South Korea during the Korean War. But we are ashamed that democracy does not exist in Korea these days."

The Government claims that democratic privileges have had to be suspended because of the threat of North Korea. That is nonsense. Even at the time of the Korean War, we were ruled by a democratic Government. Elections, too, were held."

She suggested that a letter of support from President Carter and the British Foreign Secretary would bolster the fight for political rights in South Korea.

Leader of Hanafis stays free

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 14

The Zaire authorities maintained their blackout on information concerning military activities in the area and declined to confirm whether an offensive against the invading forces that sources announced on Sunday had actually started.

An embassy spokesman said that the last evacuees to leave Sandoa reported the area quiet, with no sign of military activity at the time of their departure.—AP.

The leader of the terrorist group which held more than 100 hostages here last week and killed a young reporter was today booked on a charge of armed kidnapping and allowed to go home.

Mr Hamza Abdul Khaas is pariah of the Manafii Muslims, a small dissident group which broke away from the Black Muslims some years ago and from mid-day last Wednesday to early Friday morning they occupied three buildings in the heart of Washington.

The continued freedom of Mr Khaas was one of the conditions of their surrender.

Three of his followers who had held hostages at the Islamic Centre are also free without bail but eight others who seized part of the District Building (Washington's town hall) are detained on bail of between \$50,000 (£30,000) and \$75,000.

It was at the District Building that black reporter for a university radio station was killed in an outburst of shooting. Hostages have reported hearing remarks by the terrorists suggesting they were trying to seize the mayor and also a prominent member of the council, who escaped after being wounded in the firing.

The house is heavily guarded by police. Mr Khaas has agreed to leave Washington or to talk to the press. Some of his family, however, have been issuing new threats against society because the film "Mohammed, Messenger of God", which they consider blasphemous, is being shown. During the sieges last week they demanded that it be stopped and showings were suspended.

Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, has criticized

Mr Khaas's provisional liberty,

because it is generally accepted

that the negotiators' chief

concern was the safety of the

hostages.

Those Hanafis still free continue to live in the house on 16th Street next to a synagogue where seven members of the sect, five of them children, were murdered by Black Muslims in 1973. This was the event which has incensed Mr Khaas: during the sieges last week he demanded that the murderers be delivered to him so that he could execute them.

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paign

that the business of jubilees, we at *The Times* have some special responsibility. It was through our columns that the first heard of in the times of Hexateuch was revived to capture modern imagination.

What then? A man chiefly responsible was a respondent who hid his true identity under the pseudonym Jubel. His letter appeared on September 13, 1809, and heralded the coming of George III's jubilee year. In 1886 we played part once more: on this occasion it was Lord Bray of Leicester who prompted the cue for celebration of the fact that Queen Victoria had been served to the nation for 50 consecutive years.

We thus see that anybody: it is quite likely to be awhile as well as fun, to keep track for anything that is amusingly different. I regret, for instance, that I have not yet been able to trace any commemorative soap. The last I heard in this country was produced for the Festival of Britain. There are, however, candles from Alpenhof Design, on-Wye, or Celtic Crafts, Dingle, Kerry, Ireland, and a pewter keyring (225) from Laughlin Monach, Mackay, St Just, Cornwall. All these are £1.50.

What might be interesting in almost 30 years to come? Bonham's has just auctioned a collection of royal commemorative and patriotic clay pipes of 37 of them fetched £931. Seventy are on, for example, a Parisian one Edward VII was worth £55.

For gardeners: Heller and Sons, of Leycester Road, Winchester, will be glad send you a list of the surprisingly number of silver-foliated trees and shrubs they have available for planting, in return for a large stamped addressed envelope. And you could get years of use from handsome interlaced rings substituted for a pipe by Arcan Stoneware, of George's Abbots Leigh, Avon. They are finished with the crown motif on the sides, and rope moulding at the top, and the fair price (24 in diameter) sells at about £25.80.

You will also be able to make your own scones for under £1. Brass Rubbing

Stress Ltd, who set up shop in a leading number of cathedral cities each summer, have commissioned a silver brass engraved by Ray Hedges, Fairford. Copies will be in York, Newcastle, Chichester, Gloucester, Coventry, Edinburgh, Oxford, Stratford and other centres this summer, available for rubbing at less than £1 a go, including all the lampblack you need.

It does not seem quite right that one of the most ingenious and novel jubilee special issues should come from Kaiser porcelain, but there you are.

It looks a bit like an accident from the potter's wheel because it is turned symmetrically so that the upper part forms inverse profile portraits of the Queen and Prince Philip facing one another.

The porcelain may hail from Bavaria, but the designer—Judy Cousins, who made the piece originally only for her own amusement—is based in Windsor, and nothing could be more appropriate. The edition is limited to 500. They cost £75 each, from Kaiser Porcelain, 245 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.

Services mean feasts, and feasts usually mean a pile of washing-up. For convenience's sake, there will be interest in Cross & Spaw's jubilee matching sets of plates, napkins, cups and tablecovers. The set has the jubilee emblem in blue and silver grey on a white background, and settings for 25 will cost £3.15, or 100 under £10, at stations and department stores including all branches of W. H. Smith.

One memento will actually help in the production of festive fare. David Mellor's gingerbread queen cutter is backed with a Quentin Blake cartoon and a recipe for gingerbread will enable you to have mouthfuls at all your parties.

Originally produced for the decorative food exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, it is still on sale in their shop, and at David Mellor's at Sloane Square, SW1. Suitably for something so cheerful, it is also cheap:

Shopping/Robin Young

You shall not say we shirk our historic function now. Even so, conscious as I am that this is the third in a series of articles devoted to jubilee commemorabilia, I must hasten to encourage those whose enthusiasm may already be beginning to flag.

The purpose of this article will be to show that the best in royal memorabilia need not be the most expensive, and that while some of the ware commissioned to mark the occasion may be stately, a lot more is merely fun.

We will by no means exhaust the field even now. The Commemorative

Collectors Society has already catalogued nearly 400 silver jubilee items

of interest to its 3,500 members. Some

300 have been chosen for inclusion in

their exhibition, Jubilee Royal, which opens at Goldsmiths' Hall on May 10 and will later tour Edinburgh, Cardiff and Sheffield.

If you want to be absolutely certain of getting your money back once the jubilees are over, you cannot do better, of course, than invest in the 25,000 silver jubilee crowns which will be available as coin of the realm from today. They will always be worth their face value of 25p and should appreciate modestly as time passes. The 1972 silver wedding crown is currently catalogued at 45p in uncirculated condition, and the coronation one is £1.75.

More speculatively a collectors' silver version of the jubilee minting

can be ordered by mail from the Royal Mint Numismatic Bureau at Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan. They are £12.50 each, and should have more staying power than krugerrands.

On the other hand, take warning that it is quite possible to buy now some of the most expensive of the £6m worth of goods thrust on the market to commemorate the Queen's silver wedding, remained at one quarter of the original price. Future collectors are likely to prefer things which are attractively and durably made, setting a special premium on items which bear the silver jubilee emblem or better the silver jubilee emblem or better an up-to-date royal portrait. The best rule for you and me, though, is to buy only what we actually like or can use.

Elizabeth II is a beautiful doll. This year, in fact, she is rather an embarrassingly large number of dolls, but there is one by the inimitable Peggy Nisbet, which is limited to only 500 copies per year at the surprisingly un-inflated price of £10.95 which is modest indeed for a queen.

You can also have Her Majesty with Prince Philip, aboard the 1902 state landau complete with horses and our riders. It is modelled by Corgi, and enlivened by the addition of one of the royal pets tagging faithfully along behind (£5.50).

The rate of mugging is rising fast for the jubilee. Long the most popular form of commemorative ware, souvenir mugs for this occasion will be available for prices from 45p.

It will be worth paying the extra for something a little different, though, and one mug—based on a seven-year-old's drawing—stands out from all the others. It originates from the Royal College of Art, and was one of the (few) successes of the Design Council's jubilee souvenir exhibition. The Design Centre stock it, as do Liberty's, at £5.50.

Those with a soft spot for the Poet Laureate will be delighted to hear that, however awful some might have declared his jubilee hymn to be, at least one poet thought the chorus good enough to stick on a mug. More properly what Merian China are making should be described as a handles-beaker, and when it is available it will be £12 to cost about 25. They have special plates to commemorate the Queen's jubilee trips to Tonga, Australia and New Zealand, too. The address is 38 Union Street, Burton-on-Trent.

If you want to dress up for jubilee Tootal have produced a die sufficiently stylish to win approval; Harrods will have a complete range, including some discreet designs based on the figures 25 by Paul Salgo; and if you do not wear a tie, Hamleys have strongly coloured T-shirts for children at prices from £1.65 to £2.20 according to size.

And if you want a flag to run up the garden pole, or a banner to string across the street, Black's of Greenock emblem in three colour schemes and three sizes, from £7.70 plus VAT, but they can also make any special requirement up to order if you contact them at 53 Rathbone Place, W1.

After the commemorative crown, the cheapest viable souvenir, and a nicely traditional one, is a bottle of beer. A number of commemorative brews are available, the first I came across being Courage's Silver Jubilee Ale, ninth in a series the brewery have produced to mark events in the Queen's life since she married in 1947.

At the same appropriate price, 25p, or a crown as was, Young and Co. of the Ram Brewery, Wandsworth, have produced Silver Sovereign with a little added appeal. The original gravity, 1077, has been chosen so that the last two digits match the present date. But if that is not strong enough for you, Ansell's, Tetley's and Ind Cope have all produced strong ales with original gravities of 1098 degrees and over.

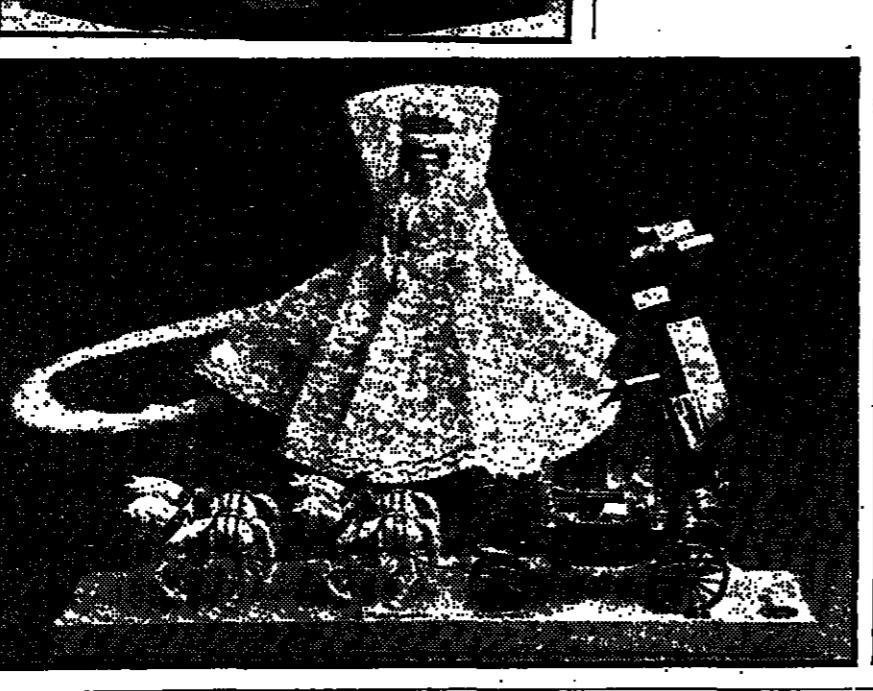
Correction: In her Shopping column on February 15, Sheila Black should have placed the astronomer Ptolemy in the second century AD—and not BC.

Above, from left to right: a Hammersley bone china box filled with English honey (£6.75 plus 70p postage and packing from Robert Jackson's, 172 Piccadilly); a ginger jar which doubles as a jubilee tea caddy at Fortnum and Mason; Young's Silver Sovereign commemorative brew; and the Royal College of Art mug, from Liberty's. Below, in its presentation box, Judy Cousins' royal silhouette vase for Kaiser Porcelain makes one of the most ingenious and diverting jubilee souvenirs.

Photograph by Trevor Sutton

Below: Queen of all she surveys: Peggy Nisbet's character doll (£10.95) takes the Royal salute as Corgi's state landau (£5.50) rolls past, both from Hamley's.

David Mellor's gingerbread queen cutter (50p) stands guard.



quickly they must not be put in too soon. About 15 or 20 minutes before the soup or stew is ready for serving, add the dumplings. You can leave the ingredients ready but do not add the water and mix the dough until nearly time to cook them. You can mix them up about 10 minutes ahead and let them sit in a cool place but not more in advance than that, because the raising agent begins to work. For four average servings you can make eight dumplings with 4oz self raising flour, but if you intend to serve the dumplings in place of potatoes increase the flour used to 6oz and the suet to 3oz and make the same number of dumplings but slightly more substantial. Dumplings

Serves 4

4oz self raising flour; Pinch salt; 2oz shredded beef suet; Water to mix.

Sift the self raising flour and salt into a mixing basin (plain flour requires one level tea-spoon baking powder) and add the beef suet. Everyday dumplings are nice with half level teaspoon mixed herbs or one teaspoon chopped parsley added at this stage. Using a fork, stir in sufficient cold water to mix to a soft but not sticky dough. A dumpling dough is softer than a pastry dough—it's rather like a scone dough, and when you mix it, it should leave the sides of the basin clean.

Turn out onto a floured working surface and cut into 8 equal pieces. Using floured hands, roll each piece into a dumpling. Keep the hands floured all the time—it is very important that the dumplings should have a dry, slightly floury surface. When the meat is cooked, add the dumplings to the simmering contents of your pan, placing them on top of the ingredients and spacing them out. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes more. When simmering them in a saucepan stew do not lift the lid during the time they take to cook because the steam and moisture are important. Oven dumplings take about 20 minutes.

Elizabeth Smart is alive and well and still writing

More than 30 years ago Elizabeth Smart wrote *By Grand Central Station I sat down and Wept*. It is a short novel, about 128 pages, and it relates the grandest of passions between a man and two women, one of them his wife—a love both desiring and triumphant upon which the reader may gaze, awed, appalled, or even, perhaps, envious. Without much critical regard at the time it was published ("a trivial and undeserving subject", said *The Times*, unperceivably), it has become a book growing in stature and acclaim over the years. It has been out of print since 1945, although Panther published it as a paperback in 1956. Now it is to be republished, probably in May this year.

But what of Elizabeth Smart?

Two years ago, she says, "it was the beginning of nice things happening again".

A young artist read her book and asked: "Is Elizabeth Smart alive or dead?" then set about finding out. "He got his clues wrong, because he wrote to the American Embassy", she says. "I didn't know how to do it, I had this book in sepia-colours, I used to write half the issue for about £9 a week, rising to £11. It's nice being poor as long as it doesn't go on too long—that's what the rich don't understand about the poor."

Now her second book, a collection of poems called *Autumn Leaves*, has just been published by Polystrophic Press, 21 Formosa Street, London, W9, £1.95, the end of a long silence. Her first book she hardly remembers. "I was in my early 20s, and it was published in wartime—they didn't know what to do with it. I had this book in sepia-colours, I used to write half the issue for about £9 a week, rising to £11. It's nice being poor as long as it doesn't go on too long—that's what the rich don't understand about the poor."

"I then did *Shopaholic* for Audrey Withers at *Vogue*. I had to get a local woman to look after the children—I paid £2.50 a week. *Vogue* paid me £2.50. Audrey Withers said she would just have to get up at four or five in the morning (citing the example of another working woman). "I can get up, but I can't write—nothing is going on in the morning."

For two years she did at least three jobs at once, in journalism, and in advertising. "My articles got more and more delayed. I'd clean the whole kitchen, and then couldn't start till 12 o'clock on Sunday night—I'd be working about two o'clock, and find myself running all the way there in the morning thinking 'I had the whole weekend when I could have done it'."

Then she went to work for *Queen* magazine. "Jocelyn Stevens said I was the most expensive sub-editor he ever had. That was a lot of fun—really lovely. I liked him a lot, and there was Dennis Hackett, a really great editor."

She was literary editor of *Queen* when she decided to go and live in the country in Suffolk, some 12 years ago. Since then, she has

never read anything in my life—they gave me two rehearsals,

and it was terrible—like sitting in a gas chamber. They let me see it afterwards. I look rather hideous, but they said it was all right."

She says she was thrown out of drama school by Michel St Denis for having "no histrionic ability—he didn't like me at all. I was a couple of years older and he liked them young—and very malleable—something, one imagines, that she has never been.

She feels that Pam Ayres has opened up poetry to everyone, and people have stopped being afraid of the look of poetry on the page. She bought a volume of Pam Ayres, and I was absolutely delighted. I thought it was lovely. There's the example of Jean Rhys and Irene Handl. "I thought her novel was very good, and I thought it was going to be about my ancestors, the Sioux. But no, not at all." Even *The Sunday Times* is taking up agisms, and she was given a moped for her sixtieth birthday. "I was glad when I stopped being a blonde—but when you've got your pension book, there's nothing you can do about it. Though, I love being called a senior—never a prefect, never head girl, but now I'm a senior."

Over the years she says she has learned humility, replacing the arrogance of the child. Sometimes the poems speak of the necessity to write:

Every writer
Except the fibbittibibbits
Feels the horror
Of the blank page

Signing a copy of her poems she inquires: "Would 'with love' be too formal?"

The day that I finished
A small piece
For an obscure magazine
I popped it in the box
And such a starry elation

Came over me

That I got whistled at in the street

For the first time in a long time.

"With love" would not be too formal.

Philippe Toomey

cultivated a beautiful garden, made out of a wilderness—a parable, it seems, of periods of her own life.

"By the end of the year I will be a three-book woman", she says, happily. "As Dennis Hackett used to say, how about that!" A second novel, *The Assumption of the Rogues and the Rascals*, will be out in the spring. She has read some of her poetry on television. "I've never read anything in my life

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and it was terrible—like sitting in a gas chamber. They let me see it afterwards. I look rather hideous, but they said it was all right."

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PARLIAMENT, March 14, 1977

Latest-three-monthly rate of inflation, on an annual basis, reaches 21.8 per cent

House of Commons

If the Government remained resolute to their policies announced last December then the rate of inflation would begin to fall in the summer. (Mr. Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said: "Mr. Ian Grist (Cardiff, North, Cl) had asked for the figures for the rate of inflation over the last three months expressed as an annual rate.")

Mr. Hattersley (Birmingham Sparkbrook, Lab)—On the three and 12 months to January, 1977, the retail price index increased by 5.4 per cent and 16.6 per cent respectively. This brings the increase since January, 1974, to 65.5 per cent. For what is the latest three months figure announced as 21.8 per cent?

Mr. Grist—Does not Mr. Hattersley feel a sense of shame at that last figure, which has risen so much from the much-vaunted figure of 8.4 per cent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Healey) at the last election?

Mr. Hattersley—I do not feel much about that last figure except, as I implied in the answer, that it does not have much statistical validity. (Conservative laughter.)

Mr. Peter Root (South-East Derbyshire, Cl)—As far as Government anti-inflation policy appears to override their own independent price commission, would it not be better to scrap it?

Mr. Hattersley—The Government applied a provision in the Act for which he and his colleagues voted. He should have voted up or down whether the over-riding provision was right. I think it was right, and that it can occasionally be applied properly.

Gas decision part of December package

Mr. Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, denied an assertion that the price policy was "in tatters".

He had told Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, L) that he (Mr. Hattersley) was primarily responsible for baulking consultations on the proposed new prices policy. And (he added) he had already had discussions with the Consumer Retailers' Council and I met the Food and Drink Industry Council later today (Monday).

Another reply, he indicated he would be having a meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) with the Consumer Council about the new proposals on price policy.

Mr. Freud—The price policy is in tatters because it applies to different categories of industry and the nationalized industries. Can he assure the House that under the new prices policy, there will not be a repetition of the squabbled ignoring of the prices policy on gas prices by the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr. Wedgwood Benn)?

Mr. Hattersley (Birmingham Sparkbrook, Lab)—I do not accept that the prices policy is in tatters. We must claim in the consultation document that the new policy will apply to nationalized industry as well as to the private sector.

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, chief Opposition spokesman on prices and consumer affairs (Gloucester, Cl)—He has said that workers who voluntarily take on austerity must be satisfied the prices they pay are justified. Is not the Secretary of State's decision to override the price of the Price Commission on gas prices, would be (Mr. Hattersley) consider the increasing of gas prices socially accountable?

Mr. Hattersley—The gas price increase was part of the decision taken in December concerning the economy as a whole and which has made the economy a good deal more stable. (Conservative laughter.) Many of the decisions within that policy were regrettable but necessary. The gas price increase comes into that category.

Mr. Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—Price increases of this

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—Does Mr. Hattersley understand fully that the £5 pay policy and its successor have not resulted in the dramatic fall in price in the last three months?

Mr. Skinner—It is time we got out altogether.

Mr. Hattersley—The position taken by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. John Silkin) in the negotiations in Brussels, which are concerned with prices yet to be set, reflects our position of not having any say in these discussions and not having any say increases injurious to our general economic policy.

What has really affected inflation over the last year is the rate of pay rises, not further investment, is there any reason to carry on with another round of the pay policy?

Mr. Hattersley—There is every reason to carry on with another round. Mr. Silkin has been under the Opposition that the increase in the official price index over the last six months has been largely the result of sterling depreciation. If we do not get another wage round, sterling would again be in decline and inflation a great deal worse.

Mr. Glyn Shaw, for the Opposition (Pudsey, C)—Mr. Hattersley cannot have it all ways. Is not an inflation figure of 65.5 per cent a tremendous vindication of the Government's pay policy in the last three years?

Will Mr. Hattersley use this opportunity to express his adherence of total price freezes which can only increase unemployment from the present ridiculous level?

Mr. Hattersley—A total price freeze of this country and it would be bad for working people.

On the overall inflation figure, if we remain resolute to our policies announced in December the rate of inflation will have to be reduced in the summer and thereafter.

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, chief Opposition spokesman on prices and consumer affairs (Gloucester, Cl)—Part of this high rate of inflation has been due to the EEC common agricultural policy and the fact that we are members of the EEC. Food prices are higher in EEC than anywhere else in the

world. Is it not about time the Government renegotiated the CAP and stopped talking about it?

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General price freeze would be wrong

Only economic strategy could bring down prices, price policy is something which obviously affects people who are not prepared to accept much longer. That means it will have a bad effect on phase three of incomes policy.

Mr. Hattersley—The specific question is about specific details of the gas price proposals and is not for me but for the Secretary of State for Energy. (Cries of "Oho")

But the energy price policy about the cuts in general in gas prices is the same stick as the Prime Minister used last April, the inflation rate has not halved, has not doubled, but has trebled. How long does Mr. Hattersley expect the country can

go on with rates of inflation double and treble those of our main competitors?

Mr. Hattersley—That is extraordinarily selective use of figures does not excite me half as much as it excites you. The increase in the year-on-year rate. The increase that has decelerated. She will find if she asks more or less this kind of question towards the end of the year, that the position has

improved.

Mr. Hattersley—The price which will improve is the price of food.

Mr. Hattersley—Statistically that is a small factor—(shouts of dissent)—compared with the major reason which was the depreciation of sterling.

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire, Lab)—Will Mr. Hattersley look longer and harder at the historic record of the tea industry and make sure that the consumer is not hooked on this in the same way as on coffee?

Mr. Hattersley—I will certainly examine the possibility of the Price Commission looking at the tea situation but the main cause of the increase in tea, as may turn out to be the case with coffee, is the cost of raw materials.

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CITROËN CX

THE COMPANY SECRETARY: CITROEN CX 2000. £4249.44

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark-colored sedan, likely a Toyota Corolla, viewed from a rear-quarter angle. The car is positioned on a light-colored surface, and the background is a plain, light-colored wall. The lighting creates strong highlights on the roofline and the side of the car, while the body is mostly in deep shadow. The rear window is divided into four quadrants by a dark frame. The rear door has a single vertical handle. The rear wheel is visible on the right side.

THE SALES DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX DIESEL. £4949.10.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark-colored sedan, likely a Toyota Camry, viewed from a front-left perspective. The car is positioned on a dark surface, and the background is a plain, light-colored wall. The lighting is dramatic, with the car's body lines and features appearing as stark white shapes against the black background. The headlight, grille, and front wheel are clearly visible.

THE MARKETING DIRECTOR, CHURCHILL CIGARETTE ESTATE, C. G.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark-colored sedan, likely a Toyota Camry, viewed from a front-quarter perspective. The car is positioned in the center of the frame, with its front-left wheel and headlight visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark-colored sedan, likely a Toyota Corolla, viewed from a front-quarter perspective. The car is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its front end angled towards the viewer. The background is a plain, light-colored wall, and the overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

THE CHAIRMAN: CITROËN GS PRESTIGE - 61000

Whilst the executives of monolithic corporations will undoubtedly continue to have fleets of uniformly characterless company cars imposed upon them, an opportunity exists for the principals of less bureaucratic organisations to make capital of size and project an individualistic image with a more inspired choice.

Few, if any, executive style production car lines today offer such scope with such a versatile selection of model variations as the Citroen CX range.

THE COMPANY SECRETARY: CITROËN CX 2000.

Value for money is the one factor that over-rides all else in the Citroen CX 2000.

For a relatively modest outlay its driver enjoys the refinements inherent in all CX models: reclining front seats with headrests, VariPower steering, quartz halogen headlamps, hazard warning lights, reversing lights, self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension, single arm windscreen wiper and electric screenwash, heated rear window, laminated windscreen, carpeted rear parcel shelf, and an array of warning lights on the futuristic instrument panel that even includes one for front brake pad wear.

(In return for a somewhat higher price, the Citroen CX 2400 offers rather more power and an even more luxurious finish that includes electrically operated front windows.)

THE SALES DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX DIESEL.

At a constant 55 mph the Citroen CX 2200 Diesel returns 44.83 mpg, a point that will be no small consideration for many motorists.

Another important feature which figures highly in making this dignified saloon attractive for drivers is summed up in the words of CAR magazine: "The CX isn't just a worthy addition to the diesel ranks, it's the quietest and smoothest diesel yet."

THE MARKETING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX SAFARI ESTATE.

The Citroen CX 2400 Safari is a triumphant refusal by Citroen designers to accept that estate cars must appear like cumbersome hulks reminiscent of World War II army vehicles.

Elegant lines belie a rugged nature. A staggering weight load of more than half a ton can be accommodated in its mind-boggling interior capacity: 72 cu.ft. with the rear seat folded forward.

(For those who prefer diesel, the Citroen CX 2200 Safari is a faithful long-service workhorse.)

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX PALLAS.

Unabashed luxury is the overwhelming impression conveyed by the Citroen CX Pallas.

The front windows are electrically operated and rear passengers can enjoy the convenience of two reading lights. Extras available include air-conditioning, leather upholstery, tinted windows and, C-matic transmission. C-matic eliminates the clutch pedal and transmission is achieved by use of a torque converter fluid coupling with automatic operation.

THE CHAIRMAN: CITROËN CX PRESTIGE.

C-matic is standard on the CX Prestige, Citroen's ultimate limousine. In length it measures 94" more than other CX saloons and the rear doors are 7" wider.

Four stereophonic speakers, tinted windows and air-conditioning are standard. All window winders are electrically operated. Upholstered footrests are provided for the rear passengers and the rear window has translucent sunblinds.

THE SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATING COMPANY CARS SHOULD GO BY THE BOARD.

Law Report March 14 1977

Court of Appeal

Mareva injunction may be used to keep goods within jurisdiction

Rasu Maritima SA v Perusahaan Pertambangan Minyak Dan Gas Bumi Negara (Pertamina) and Government of the Republic of Indonesia (Intervener)

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Orr (Judgments delivered March 9)

The court has a discretion, in advance of judgment, to issue an injunction to restrain the removal of the assets of the defendant if the jurisdiction is within the jurisdiction or outside it. The discretion should not be fettered by rigid rules, but should be exercised when it is just or convenient to do so.

The Court of Appeal laid down guide lines on the exercise of the discretion when dismissing an appeal by Rasu Maritima SA against the discharge by Mr Justice Kerr on February 10 of an injunction located in London but granted on February 7 restraining Pertamina from removing, or taking any steps to remove, any assets from within the jurisdiction of the court. In particular any assets from the West Gladstone Dock, Liverpool.

Mr Nicholas Phillips and Mr Roger Buckley for Rasu; Mr M. J. Mustill, QC, and Mr John Steven for Pertamina; Mr Anthony Evans, QC, and Mr Peter Stamp for the Government of Indonesia.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case, and others like it, were said to involve 1,000 million US dollars. Its only connection with England was goods lying in Liverpool, said to be worth £12m. Their owner wanted to remove them to Hamburg, but a creditor had applied under a new procedure known as the Mareva procedure to restrain them. He should grant interlocutory injunctions as was done by the customary courts in olden times and by the courts of the Continent today.

Section 45 of the Judicature Act 1925 gave the court a wide discretion to grant an interlocutory injunction "in all cases in which it appears to the court to be just or convenient so to do."

His Lordship had said in *Word J. Jones* (1966) 1 QB 273 (259):

"The court may lay down the conditions which should be borne in mind in exercising the discretion. . . . From time to time the considerations may change and the pattern of decision may change. This is part of the evolutionary process."

The case was some uncertainty about the ownership of the equipment. Some was said to belong to the contractor and some to Pertamina, but it was said that on December 13, 1976, it had been transferred to the Government of Indonesia. If the equipment was sold for \$300,000, its value was stated to be only \$30,000.

When Mr Justice Kerr discharged the interim injunction on February 12 he continued it pending application for judgment.

The case raised directly the correctness of two recent decisions of the Court of Appeal: *Nippon Yusen Kaisha v Karagoros* (1975) 1 WLR 1093 and *Mareva Compania Naviera SA v International Bulk Carriers SA* (1975) 1 WLR 1097. Both were with creditors who had not paid the bill. The charterers were out of the jurisdiction but had funds in banks in London. As soon as the owners

had issued writs, ex parte interlocutory injunctions were granted to restrain them from removing any of their assets out of the jurisdiction. Mr Mustill suggested that the two cases had been wrongly decided, and the court had no jurisdiction.

It had been said that the procedure of seizure of assets had never been known to the law of England.

That was not correct. In former

times it was much used in the City of London by a process called "foreclosure". When the Lordships of London and Bristol settled in the United States they took the process with them: *Chamber v Morgan* (1920) 256 US 94. The same process was available in the Court of Appeal. In effect it was called "seizure conservatoire".

Now that we had joined the European Community it would be appropriate that we should follow suit, at any rate in regard to admiralty cases, which would bring a defendant's trade or business to a standstill or inflict on him great loss, for that might not be fully compensated in the undertaking in

itself. It was established that the courts should, in advance of a judgment, allow a creditor to seize any of the money or goods of the debtor or to use any legal process to do so. His Lordship saw no objection to security on security being provided.

His Lordship saw no objection to security being given in respect of assets.

Was it just or convenient to grant an interlocutory injunction in the present case? Mr Rappaport pointed to charters signed on behalf of Pertamina which showed "prime facie a liability on Pertamina, but that had been much strengthened by the fact that his Lordship did not think that it would be proper for equity to intervene to assist one party or the other.

In addition, there was the nature of the goods sought to be attached. They were not money or assets which could be detained without much loss. They were not being taken to Hamburg, where they could be sold at a public auction in England, probably more so.

Then there was the lack of certainty in their title, and the \$300,000 they would fetch if seized and sold was trifling if it did not seem proper to interfere with the creditor's right to sue him to secure it. In all the circumstances it was not a case in which an injunction should be granted.

LORD JUSTICE ORR, concurring, said that Mr Justice Kerr had taken the view, rightly, that since those cases had been constantly being invoked by the parties, it was time for the court to make its own decision on the implications of the Mareva procedure.

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THE ARTS

Pictures at the Pompidou

Before contributing to the immense workload on the Pompidou Centre, it must be pointed out that much which has been written has been silly and confused. In France it has been attacked from both left and right. Much comment from abroad has been cynical and Francophobic and no doubt largely based on envy. Just as it is not true, or no more so than of any other country, this one in particular, that France's foreign policy since the war has been motivated purely by self-interest, so it is absurd to say, as many have done, that the only motive for the building of the Centre was an attempt to reassess French cultural supremacy.

In fact, the development of the Beaubourg Centre has been marked by a remarkable absence of chauvinism—in the appointment, for instance, of Pontus Hulten, former director of the Modern Museum in Stockholm, as head of the Musée d'Art Moderne which forms the largest part of the main building.

There has been a curious confusion between the building at Beaubourg, and the destruction of Les Halles. Although quite close to the Halles area, the site of the Centre was never part of it and is separated from it by the Boulevard de Sébastopol. Although there was a certain amount of demolition, the larger part of the site was for many years a car park. Before that it was one of the worst and most insanitary slums in Paris.

It has been said that the building of a cultural prestige centre has created an influx of antique dealers and art galleries into the historic, and largely protected, quarter of the Marais, displacing the small businesses and workshops that used to be there and the working-class people who lived above them. It is true that this has happened. Yet exactly the same thing is taking place now in Champs Elysées, where no great cultural prestige centre has been built, nor seems likely to be in the near future.

Many journalists have pointed out that Parisians have taken to calling the Centre "the refinery" or "the factory". This suggests that people see it as a piece of pure technology rather than as architecture. But the architects themselves have stated that this is what they wanted, a sense that the man in the street has lost confidence in architecture but not in technology. And however Parisians may

describe it, thousands of them have been flocking to the Centre in the six weeks it has been open.

What the architects have produced is a genuinely democratic structure. Despite its huge size it does not dominate the old buildings around it, nor the people who enter it. It is not all that high and because of its horizontal emphasis looks even less high than it is. Because it is "inside-out" it tempts one to go in, unlike the majority of modern museums.

The permanent collection of the Musée d'Art Moderne has been greatly enlarged by purchases and supplemented by loans for its transfer to Beaubourg. The Kandinsky and De Stael are particularly good.

You can look at Delaunay's Eiffel Tower paintings and then glance out of the windows at the Tower itself rising superbly above the Paris skyline. You can march on in the Uffizi where you can look at a Florentine painting with a Tuscan landscape in the background and look through a window and see an almost identical view. In an era where top-lighting has become mandatory and universally dehumanizing, separating art from life, to find a new museum with no top light at all is an exhilarating experience.

Many of the works by Marcel Duchamp exhibited on the top floor of the centre, like *The Large Glass*, *Nine Malic Moulds* and *Bride*, with their bio-mechanical forms, bear a curious resemblance to the building itself. His work was obsessed with machinery. It is usually held that Duchamp's attitude to technology was cynical and satirical, rather than the naive enthusiasm of the Futurists or the optimism of Delaunay or Léger. In fact Duchamp's stance was highly ambiguous; one suspects that technology interested him more than human beings.

His work has become the delight of scholars and the writers of footnotes; he became an art history industry in his own lifetime. The retrospective exhibition reflects all this with its elaborate reconstructions and re-creations. It contains a very full representation of Duchamp's early work which shows him to have been a sensitive and talented painter. Having given up painting he became a witty cerebralist of art. His later work is like the game he loved to play, chess—mentally demanding and sophisticated but ultimately leaving one with a sense

of intellectual exhaustion and emptiness.

André Derain is the kind of painter Duchamp might have declined into if he had not given up painting. His early Fauve pictures are brisk and vigorous, although less vibrant and exciting than those of Matisse. His later work became refined and dull, with the exception of a few fine nudes painted in the early Twenties in a monumental style which show a deep respect and understanding of women, in particular *Nude in Front of a Green Curtain* and *Nude with a Cat*, both with full and beautiful bodies and beautiful expression.

Andre Masson's importance

was as a pioneer of "automatic" means of making pictures, using processes of chance. His work was shown in the United States in Surrealist exhibitions in the late Thirties and he spent the war years there. He influenced Pollock and the Abstract Expressionists. But most of his work of that period is an unpleasing combination of the tasteful and the vulgar peculiar to many of the Surrealists. The best pictures are the paintings with sand made in the late Twenties. They have a delicate quality, allusive and elusive, which gains in the Thirties into a garish eclecticism. His later postwar work was like a parody of his own earlier paintings and those of the artists he had influenced.

The Masson exhibition is at the Grand Palais, although organized by the Musée d'Art Moderne. It continues until May 2, as does the Duchamp show at the Beaubourg Centre, which is at present open from 3 pm to 10 pm (eventually from 10 am to 10 pm) and closed on Tuesdays. The Derain exhibition is also at the Grand Palais and continues until April 11.

Last Tuesday I had hoped to

write on the exhibitions and film shows at the Hayward Gallery. There is only room here to recommend the screenings of avant-garde and artists' films, many of them sponsored by the Arts Council (ring the Hayward or see *Time Out* for programmes and times) and the three exhibitions, in particular the superb show of photographs by Edward Weston. The retrospectives of Agnes Martin and Ian Stephenson also deserve serious attention. The exhibitions continue until April 24.

Paul Overy Marcel Duchamp: Bride, 1912



Janet Baker: a new challenge

Janet Baker sings Massenet for the first time in public when the English National Opera stages *Werther* at a gala performance tomorrow. The demure Charlotte of Massenet and Goethe, who is thrown out of her small-town routine by the arrival of the poet Werther, seems some way off Dame Janet's normal operatic roster of "debonair" princesses and queens.

"But that is just why I am singing the part," she replies. Late romantic French opera is a new period and style for me, and so a new challenge. I love doing fresh things and as soon as the right opportunities occur I snatch at them. All singers are likely to suffer from being put into special boxes and neatly labelled: And when this happens it's up to you to get yourself out of the box."

Janet Baker has had her difficulties. "From time to time, yes. At the beginning of my career I was assured that my voice was an alto—not a mezzo, until Anthony Lewis and Ben Britten persuaded me to the contrary. People came up and said: 'My goodness, your voice had gone up.' It hadn't. Previously I was just not using it properly."

"It was at that period I began to hate being told I couldn't do this and I couldn't do that. Yes, I was being put in a box and that made me all the more determined to prise the lid off. I remember there was amazement in the early Sixties when I sang a performance of *Der Rosenkavalier*. It was not that I was particularly good or anything else—but on that evening, when Schenckberg was not around, my sort of music."

"A few years later, when Scottish Opera asked me to sing *Dobrolka* in *Coriolan* for the first time I accepted without hesitation. It didn't occur to me that there were those who thought that I couldn't sing the role, and I wasn't in the least surprised that it came reasonably easily. Does that sound arrogant? It's not meant to. A singer should have a pretty complete idea of what he or she can achieve. Just because you keep a straight face on the oratorio platform, it doesn't necessarily follow that you have to be humourless on stage."

Dobrolka, led to *Der Rosenkavalier* and *The Trojans*. The offers came in from abroad and Janet Baker turned them all down. "In some ways I was being treated as an operatic tyro by those who had forgotten my days in the Glyndebourne chorus and my earliest engagements, such as singing the Soprano to Joan Hammond's *Birds* in Purcell. At the same time there was pressure to become an international opera-singer, with some European houses giving me carte blanche on the choice of role."

"Perhaps I had been spoilt by Glyndebourne and by Scottish Opera, where I was given a chance to rehearse fully, to grow with a new production. But I think the real reason for my refusal to sing roles overseas—and, there will be no reversal of that decision—is that I have seen too many colleagues ruined by jetting from

one city to another. I enjoy giving lieder and concert programmes abroad, but I do not like extended periods away from home and the disorientation that goes with it."

"Too many managers, and too many conductors for that matter, treat the voice like so much cannon-fodder. There's plenty more where that came from" is the implicit attitude. And too many singers agree to roles that are totally unsuitable for them. It's exceedingly difficult for a singer to get unbiased advice, which is why I am apt to say to younger colleagues 'No one gives a

straight answer.'

Has Dame Janet gone back to Goethe? "No, deliberately not. Werther was decided some

High play at Monte

Michael Ratcliffe

It was an enormous relief, after a week of old news and man's inhumanity to man, to honestly present more or less as it occurred, to spend the second week of the recent Monte Carlo International Television Festival watching plays.

Suddenly events appeared on the screen in a certain order, because that was the order in which a producer or director had decided that they would look best. If they were right, we got a good play; if not, not—but at least we knew whom to blame.

If that sounds obvious, try watching the unhappy citizens of Sevosa shouting at each other for a whole hour, or real Polish lady mountaineers fighting their own and their men's *machismo* to the top of the Himalayas for International Women's Year. Besides, the standard of dramatic work was far higher than that shown as a documentary and news. Eight of the 28 plays were out-standing.

Before coming to those I should say that six, at least, I never wish to see again. Apart from *The Hemingway Play*, in which I referred to it as "one of the worst", I made it a point of honour to see all the plays I liked best.

Ricke sounds a dim echo of the family "problem-dreams" of the mid-50s, and such is the crassness of American production values and the price of sponsored name that it makes even players like Ben Gazzara and Edie Baskin look bad.

That the genre itself is not dead, nor yet immune to intelligent script and committed performance, was shown in *The Gold Watch* from Community Television of Southern California.

Marisa is a piece of feminist verité which honours the spirit of De Sica but rejects all forms of human communication save the unstoppable, ear-shredding monologue. *L'affaire du Château de Bittremont* is a mercifully ponderous melodrama made in Charleroi and must have had them nodding into their supper all over the Bosphorus. If there was such a thing as *Television Pudding*, it would be the Belgian variety. It was also sampled in Polish and Hungarian flavours and, heaven knows, we package

four years ago when Charles Mackerras and I were working on *Mary Stuart*, just as now we are talking about a Handel opera for four years hence. I have not returned to the original sources because I believe that our Charlotte belongs to Massenet in the same way that Mary belongs to Donizetti.

"When I first looked at the score I confess I was not as good as I could be. I'd rather play it my way and make mistakes which can be corrected later. You ask if I've listened to Nitro Valim and the answer again is 'No'. We each create roles for our own generation and I don't want my interpretation of the part clouded even subconsciously by that of someone else. I work on my own scores just as I work on my own lieder programmes. I stand or fall by what I believe in—and that goes as much for Massenet as it does for

Janet Baker speaks vehemently about your voice except you. Guard it with your life!"

Janet Baker speaks vehemently about the way talent is not being nurtured and developed properly. But when the conversation turns back to Massenet and Charlotte, to herself in fact, she immediately becomes cool and objective.

"I want to be as instinctive as possible. I'd rather play it my way and make mistakes which can be corrected later. You ask if I've listened to Nitro Valim and the answer again is 'No'. We each create roles for our own generation and I don't want my interpretation of the part clouded even subconsciously by that of someone else. I work on my own scores just as I work on my own lieder programmes. I stand or fall by what I believe in—and that goes as much for Massenet as it does for

"You suggest that Marguerite in *The Damnation of Faust* might have helped me prepare Charlotte. There are certainly similarities in the breadth of phrasing, but Marguerite is scarcely defined as character and that is not true of Charlotte. In the middle of rehearsals John Copley [the

four years ago when Charles Mackerras and I were working on *Mary Stuart*, just as now we are talking about a Handel opera for four years hence. I have not returned to the original sources because I believe that our Charlotte belongs to Massenet in the same way that Mary belongs to Donizetti.

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John Higgins

and are used with professional skill, as the sprightly phrasing and the subtly graded dynamics of these string players, in sonatas by Marini and Buonamente, showed. This ensemble, of five players, balanced sweetly with the band comprising pairs of cornetts and sackbuts.

That was in music by Giovanni Gabrieli. The wind group also played a canzona by Giuseppe Gianni, showing an uncommon capacity, entirely unsovereign, to match their music with natural, unforced variety in articulation without ever going as far as anything that could easily be called legato or staccato. Two siccarces for theorbo by Pizzetti were sensitively done by Nigel North.

If, in all this, anything was lacking, it was a touch of passion; everything was slightly

A genius at just being herself

Peggy Lee
London Palladium

Miles Kingston

There is nothing very spectacular about Peggy Lee except that she happens to have the most voice of any female in popular music. Simplicity, for instance, is different; he not only has a fine voice, but is spectacular as well, which helps to explain why he filled the Albert Hall for a whole week; and Peggy Lee was happy to fill the Palladium just twice one Sunday.

It is not quite so easy to explain just why Peggy Lee goes by with only a great voice. It is natural, unforced and direct, but then the big advantage that popular singers enjoy over their concert counterparts is that they are all natural and direct.

Where most of them let themselves down, though, is in pushing that naturalness to the utmost, whether in becoming melodramatic like Shirley Bassey or too perfect like Cleo Laine. Peggy Lee is a genius at just being herself, in the same way that a very good actress persuades you that she is always like that. Her physical gestures, like her vocal flourishes, are all small, exact

LPO/Haitink

Albert Hall

William Mann

Eight days ago Daniel Barenboim and the London Philharmonic Orchestra launched a cycle of all Beethoven's symphonies to be performed in four concerts and completed on Sunday. In the meantime Mr Barenboim was taken ill and had to give up the final concert. Fortunately the LPO's conductor-in-chief, Bernard Haitink, was in London for last night's *Don Giovanni* at Covent Garden and agreed to conduct the programme of Beethoven's eighth and ninth symphonies.

Presumably Barenboim had rehearsed the works, but Haitink has conducted them with the LPO and was able to give his own readings without a hint of last-minute substitution (and without a score). The eighth symphony went delicately without loss of grandeur, and with much attention to internal detail. This attention was also a feature of his account of the choral symphony, for example in all the fugal sections and, most engagingly,

the counterpoints to the Joy theme at its first exposition.

A virtue was made of strong, precise, springing rhythms in the ninth symphony to signal purpose in the embellished returns of the *Adagio*'s first theme. Mr Haitink approached that movement gently and expressively, the Scherzo well up to speed, even with a trace of understatement. The Double Fugue in the Finale went so fast that running quavers turned into a blur, perhaps an acoustical hazard since some soft entries in the eighth symphony began inaudibly.

The chorale finale found the London Philharmonic Chorus in bold yet sensitive form, and introduced an excellent solo quartet of Jill Gomez (splendid in her last, wily difficult phrase), Sandra Browne, David Rendall and Gwynne Howell, warmly blended, distinctive as individuals.

Haitink, it could be observed, does not wholly disdain the retouched scoring of great conductors since Beethoven, nor is he too puritanical to forgo un-specified acceleration and retardation in the interests of structural tension. He is fundamentally a loyal but not a heartless Beethovenite.

dream-like nature of the vision, and he managed to sustain a flow of tone within a very slow tempo. For the mighty opening "Der Atlas" he found the necessary strength, yet he diminished the stature of the song through insufficient continuity of line, achieving other contexts too.

"Das Fischermädchen" in its turn was one of several songs which cried out for more tonal radiance. Clouded timbre even seemed to flatten his pitch more than a few times. Again in the *Kleistab* settings it was often on Mr Parsons at the piano that we had to rely for gleams of light. But the ache of "In der Ferne" was very keenly conveyed, and Mr Prey also made much of what he did not touch in its unaffected simplicity. But because he drew from extremes the emotional range of the cycle seemed a little narrowed.

Of the Heine group, nothing was finer than "der bitt": here, his half voice caught the first full-length opera, *The Story of Vasco*. He says it will be one of his most romantic pieces and will extend many of his ideas in the original score which have developed as he has worked on a revision of the opera.

The concert of British music will be conducted by Charles Mackerras, music director of the English National Opera.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's latest editions.

Gordon Crosse Suite

A new musical work has been commissioned by the Inner London Education Authority from Gordon Crosse for the London Schools Symphony Orchestra's jubilee concert at the Festival Hall on June 1.

The piece is a suite for full orchestra based on Crosse's

first full-length opera, *The Story of Vasco*. He says it will be one of his most romantic pieces and will extend many of his ideas in the original score which have developed as he has worked on a revision of the opera.

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Sotheby's

AT LONGLEAT HOUSE

Warminster, Wiltshire



You are invited to attend on any day from Monday 14th March until Thursday 17th March

Between 10am and 5pm (or on each day)

All the virtues, and an economic miracle, too

Hongkong
The day before I left London I had lunch with Mr Ken Gil, the communist member of the engineers' union executive, and he lamented the de-industrialization of Britain. "We will soon be reduced to making plastic ducks", he concluded gloomily.

Mr. Hongkong has produced millions of plastic ducks, but in contrast to Britain they were the beginning of a process of industrialization which long ago passed what Mr. Watt Rostow defined as the point of economic takeoff.

The textile industry has moved upmarket, leaving the cheaper products to relatively undeveloped countries such as South Korea, and former wig-makers switched to electronics when the bottom fell out of their market. Much more significant, however, is the growth of a machine tool factory in which the Chinese government is involved.

Whatever the Chinese is for a *Wirtschaftswunder*, this is an economic miracle in any language. The former colonial and rather stuffy entrepot port is now the seventeenth largest trading country in the world. The growth rate has averaged 8.4 per cent since 1971, despite the 1974-75 recession which is already a distant memory, and inflation is low by European standards. Hongkong would be among the highest paid in Asia, second only to Japan. Confidence among the Chinese and expatriate communities is unbounded.

What makes Hongkong tick, or rather race ahead like a well-tuned racing car? Certainly not the climate, which is miserable most of the year. It is a tiny colony with only 404 square miles of territory. Much of it is hilly or mountainous, and there are few resources apart from the people, free enterprise, free trade and low taxation. The secret is obviously to be found within this combination.

The 4,400,000 Hongkongers are the greatest resource. The Chinese majority were described by one expatriate as the brightest and most capable people in the world. They certainly have all the Victorian virtues, including industry, cleanliness and love of family. They are resilient and willing to try their hand at anything. Hongkong gives them the opportunity.

Profits tax, the only company tax, is but 17 per cent. Income tax is at 15 per cent, and under the new budget proposals a married man with two children will not tax on his first £4,000 a year.

No wonder they work. Even Leyland workers might try it if they could take home all or most of their earnings. British managers might arrive at the offices a little earlier if they were offered such incentives.

The Chinese have no class system of course, and as far as I could see do not suffer from the sin of envy. Even so the British gross domestic product would surely increase if we learned from our allegedly colonial subjects. Certainly the colonial officials have learned many work like—no, not blacks, but like Chinese.

Most visiting Labour MPs offer to investigate the darker side of Hongkong life, and it can be dark. There is a great deal of corruption. Some wages are low, although skilled workers now earn more than £8 a day free of tax, and the six-day working week is standard. The East End of London is not the only place where child labour can be found. Thousands still live in shanty

Louis Heren

"It's a crying shame

that Harry and Maggie must endure this after what they've been through."

We think you may share our volunteer visitor's indignation. This old couple (78 & 70) have braved a lot: Harry fought in the 1914 war, lost an eye in a later explosion, and is crippled from being run down in a street accident. Maggie cares devotedly for him, but is herself very frail.

They long for companionship; yet have nowhere to go, and no means of getting out.

Think what joy and help it would bring if we were able to start the Day Centre in their district so badly needs; and provide volunteers with a minibus for the housebound. And think, too, what it must be like for old people overseas going hungry every day, and slowly sinking into illness as a result.

Our volunteers say, please put help into our willing hands.

£5 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 can help towards a Geriatric unit.

£150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre in Britain.

£100 names a hospital bed in Asia.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ. (No stamp needed.)

*Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Mrs Gandhi has a fight on her hands, but the signs are that she will win

New Delhi

The "bad old days" when the British were still ruling in India have never been so well spoken of as during recent weeks of campaigning in India's crucial general election ordered by Mrs Indira Gandhi after the relaxation of the 19-month long Emergency.

The population in 1945 was about 600,000, and in the first year after the Chinese revolution more than 750,000 refugees descended upon the colony. The subsequent flow until recently would have overwhelmed some larger countries. As late as 1973, an estimated 80,000 legal and illegal immigrants arrived, that equivalent of 2 per cent of the population. In Britain what would have been the equivalent of one million I wonder how we could have coped.

In fact, this desperate situation was an added incentive to work. The refugees were forced to accept low wages, which the nascent industries required if they were to get started. It was a classical nineteenth-century example of market forces after the emergency severely curtailed western-style constitutional guarantees.

If she wins that endorsement in human terms, the vital question for Indians would be what impact the election campaign has had on the Prime Minister's crisis-crossing of the country like no one else.

Pradeep Singh, a former member of the opposition, came from the opposition interested in making the emergency the main object of attack. "At least the British" so ran the popular chorus led by Mrs. V. L. Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, "when they locked up political dissenters made known the charges against them and let India's press report their payments.

The new estates and towns are cheerful places with schools, shopping centres, playgrounds, and air-conditioned restaurants, as well as the traditional food stalls. The Chinese like the food as much as the French, and in the new Oi Man estates in Kowloon I ate a meal better than any I have eaten in London's West End.

Tenants are responsible for interior decoration, and the flats I visited were brightly painted and well furnished. Most of them have refrigerators and colour television, and one of them also had a telephone and a drinks cabinet filled with bottles of Chinese wine, whisky and vodka.

Education is being extended, which should help to reduce child labour, and a second university has been established. The Chinese University in the New Territories is one of Hongkong's greatest achievements. Housed on a large hillside campus, it is the only academically free Chinese university in the world. Its Institute of Chinese Studies is likely to become the world centre of Chinese learning for communists and nationalists because it recognizes no ideological divisions in the Chinese world.

The success of Hongkong has attracted Americans, who are the largest foreign investors, and the Chinese government, an indication that the ideological freedom of its Chinese University reflects the true nature of the country. Apart from the old-established firms and banks, Britain has failed to seize fully the opportunities and the rewards which await the hard-working and the adventurous.

If this reflects the true nature of modern Britain, we could soon be the world's largest producer of plastic ducks, but perhaps it is not too late to learn from Hongkong.

Bernard Levin

The death (which took place just before a terrible darkness descended upon the breakfast-tables of the world) of John Dickson Carr, the American writer of detective-stories, brings back for me memories of my experiences in that genre, though I must make it clear at once that everything I have to say on the subject today refers to the true whodunit, in which the puzzle is all, not to the kind which are really in the adventure-story tradition. The former I used to read in enormous quantities when I was a boy, though I quickly outgrew the habit and have touched hardly a one for very many years; the latter I regard as catering for entirely different tastes, though as a matter of fact I don't read those either, except for the ones by Gavin Lyall. (Here, if I may digress for a moment, you can see at work a very jolly form of literary impropriety, which much outrages certain pure spirits whose books don't sell. I enjoy Mr. Lyall's excellent thrillers, but I do not make a habit of automatically mentioning all the writers whose work I enjoy; he, however, is a friend, so I am only too happy to roll a log for him. But then, you see, the next time I publish a book I shall expect Gavin's wife, who is Katherine Whitehorn, to say in her column in *The Observer* that it is frightfully good, and then I shall take an early opportunity of commanding her latest book and then Gavin in his next novel will have his hero reading *The Sunday Times* and saying what a marvellous theatre critic the paper has, and thus the good will go on and we shall all three prosper. And as far as I can see there is absolutely nothing that anybody can do about it.)

John Dickson Carr (he also wrote under the name of Carter Dickson)

was one of the most ingenious of crime-writers, specializing in the murder committed in a locked room or other apparently impossible circumstances; indeed, he was as much a writer of howdunits as of who. But I remember getting irritated fairly early on by his irritating, fairly early on by his

irreducible, a Chippendales figure called Dr Gideon Fall, whose favourite oath was "Archons of Athens!". Also high on the list for ingenuity was Margery Allingham, who had a detective called Mr. Champion, though she affected an elliptical style which at times made it practically impossible to find out what was actually going on (a technique taken to such lengths by Mr. Len Deighton that the last book of his I read remained completely unintelligible even after I had finished it, including the bit where he explained who had been doing what to whom, and why); still the Allingham puzzles did at any rate puzzle.

I am happy to say that the critical perception of even the infant Levin was sufficiently keen to discern that the detective-stories of Dorothy Sayers were blige even by the exceptionally low standard of the form; has anybody else, in any kind of novel, ever created a hero who was at once so unconvinced, ridiculous and nasty as Lord Peter Wimsey? The same critical perception began to work very early in the case of Agatha Christie, for although there is no doubt that she was the undisputed champion at keeping the readers guessing on the end, her prose is of such unredeemed badness that I soon found her books quite unreadable.

After I gave up, in my teens, taking detective-stories seriously, I found that for some time thereafter they continued to serve one purpose;

when I was ill, at any rate with some debilitating affliction like influenza,



Mrs Gandhi: can she win over the workers?

"Hindu heartlands" north and east of Delhi and comes nearer the 250 end of estimator of seats being canvassed here than 290-300 (with the magic figure of a majority of 272 in the new parliament) and the uncertainty which has underlined the whole somewhat monotonous campaign.

The vigour with which the opposition has re-emerged—its unity, as its leaders delightedly emphasize, forged while they sat in prison—and, perhaps, the size of the audiences attracted do indeed suggest the Indian people's attachment to democratic processes and belief in its system of checks on Government.

Mrs Gandhi herself probably called the election because she thought she could obtain a plenary endorsement of the emergency and certain economic gains it brought initially. But as the campaign has developed things have appeared much less certain.

The sudden uncorking of the bottle from mid-January produced the so-called "Janata wave", though Congress could, and has, expected that to die

and has,

by Geraint Talfan Davies

In the reception area of the Welsh Development Agency's offices at Treborth, the office was pinned the following words: "We the willing, led by the unknown are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little we are now qualified to do anything with nothing for next to nothing."

Less than a year since the WDA could be said truly to have begun its work the joke is, less than fair, not to say inaccurate in several respects, but it does express some of the disillusionment in Wales with the efforts made to reduce the disadvantage from which it so obviously suffers.

One of the paradoxical products of such gloom is

often a search for panacea. And the latest of these is the WDA, whose coming was much trumpeted as an instrument of economic salvation. Mr Ian Gray, the WDA's chief executive, has to live down such unrealistic expectations.

The face of it the WDA has all the powers needed to do the job. It can provide loans to companies, can enter equity holdings, can enter joint ventures and even set up businesses of its own. It will provide an advisory service for industry. It has even taken over the work of the Welsh Industrial Estates Corporation and is thus the biggest industrial landlord in Wales. It is also responsible for approving and financing land reclamation schemes and other environmental improvements.

It is an impressive range of powers, but its effectiveness, like that of any other agency, will be largely determined by how much money is available. The Act establishing the WDA gave it a budget of £100m spread over five years, but gave to the

Secretary of State the right to go back to Parliament for a further £50m if need be.

There has been a certain scepticism in Wales about the adequacy even of £150m to cope with the scale of Welsh problems. Mr Gray

concedes the point. "It is

already clear that in order

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down by the WDA, we will have to spend very much more

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

STUDENT REVOLT

As if Italy did not have enough troubles already, she has been suddenly faced in the past few weeks with a rapidly escalating student revolt, which last Saturday night provoked scenes of violence in Rome and some other cities such as had not been seen since the war. The political parties which struggle to rule the country, already fumbling desperately to rebalance an acutely inflationary economy, to reform an absurdly overstuffed and inefficient bureaucracy, and to contain the rumbling discontent of the working class, have wheeled warily about to face this new threat from an unexpected quarter.

Superficially what has happened bears some resemblance to the French student revolt of May 1968—particularly in the relationship between it and the Communist party. The violent attack on Signor Luciano Lama, the Communist trade union leader, at the University of Rome last month, recalls the expulsion of the French Communist Party's education spokesman from the Nanterre campus in April 1968. In Italy, even more than in France nine years ago, contempt and hatred for a communist party which has settled down to play conventional politics within the bourgeois system seem to be among the main sources of student revolutionary anger.

The Italian Communist Party today is similar, but perhaps even stronger, reasons to fear an outbreak of violence to those which the French Communist Party had in 1968. The 1968 crisis came a year after a general election in which the left-wing parties, standing in alliance for the first time in the Fifth Republic, had almost deprived General de Gaulle's

supporters of their majority in parliament. The Communist leaders felt confident that their strategy of unity was paying off. But the outbreak of student violence and the general strike which followed it so frightened the moderate voters that the prospects for a left-wing government were set back by at least five years. The Italian Communists today are much closer to power than the French Communists were then. The present Italian government depends on their tacit support for its survival, and consults them regularly on all kinds of issues. Anti-communist opinion both in Italy and outside is gradually coming to accept that they are a respectable party whose help is needed to resolve Italy's multiple crisis. And even the most naive voter could scarcely hold them responsible for an outbreak of violence so obviously directed against them.

The danger for the Italian Communists is not that they may be thought to be responsible for student violence, but rather that they can be seen to be incapable of preventing it; and this is liable to diminish their attraction for large numbers of moderate or conservative voters who were coming to regard them as a necessary bulwark of law and order. A resemblance to May, 1968, can be seen also in the rapid degeneration of what the majority of participants see as a non-violent protest movement into acts of vandalism and violence, apparently organized by relatively small groups of demonstrators with a teddy-boy mentality. How far these small groups are inspired by right or left-wing notions of a *politique du pire* it is hard to guess. On the Paris barricades some former partisans of *Algérie Française*

and temptations that came from the CID's exclusive position, keeping itself almost as a force within a force, and sought to correct this by integrating the detectives within the general command structure of the Metropolitan Police—though the extent to which this changed the substance as well as the appearance may be questioned.

Externally he made the role of the police the subject of much more open debate and interest. That was an excellent example, though occasionally in his pronouncements on the jury system, high rates of acquittal, and dishonest lawyers, and in his implacable opposition to the recent legislation on complaints against the police, he pitched his case too strongly. At other times, both operationally and from the point of view of public impact, he has been brilliant, the Spaghetti House, and 'Balcombe' Street sieges being two such occasions.

AFTER SIR ROBERT MARK

Sir Robert Mark became Metropolitan Police Commissioner when the force was going through an extremely difficult period. Revelations of the extensive corruption within it had greatly undermined public confidence in the police, and the antipathy between the uniformed and detective branches had been destructive of both efficiency and morale. A measure of his success during his five years' tenure of office is the fact that the Metropolitan Police have largely recovered confidence and understanding of most of the community (the black minority being one unfortunate exception). It is also more aware of its role in society.

Sir Robert's policy was twofold. Internally, he took strong action against corruption among his men, which led to more than 400 leaving the force in less than creditable circumstances. He was acutely aware of the dangers

NIMROD—THE WAY TO SAVE JOBS

If Britain is to maintain her defence stance unimpaired she must be able to spot the new generation of fast, long-range Soviet bombers when they are still over the horizon and at least 200 miles away. It is agreed in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that mounting radars on board high-flying aircraft is the way to do this, but which aircraft, and which radar system to choose for this country is an important decision which has remained for too long in the pending tray of the Secretary of State for Defence.

The choice for Mr. Mulley is twofold. On the one hand there is the American AWACS system, using American radars in an American aircraft, the E3A version of the well-known Boeing 707 airliner. On the other, there are British Marconi-Elliott radars in the British Hawker Siddeley Nimrod, an aircraft based on the Comet airliner which is in service with the Royal Air Force as a submarine hunter.

Sterling values

From Mr Roy Manley

I wrote to you and you published a letter last December in which I described the higher exchange rate being given in the Paris Gare du Nord for Scottish compared with English currency.

It may please some of your readers that a week or so ago the same risk I was offered 8.2 francs for the English and 8.1 francs for the Scottish pound note. As to whether this reversal can be explained by devaluation's having become an almost dead duck or by the French profiting from the presence of a host of Scottish rugby supporters, I cannot hazard a guess. Yours faithfully,

ROY MANLEY,
7 Holland Park Court,
Holland Park Gardens, W14.

Historic churches

From Mr Marcus Binney and Mr Peter Burman

Sir, Clifford Longley's interesting report (February 21) on the forthcoming state aid for historic churches could give the impression that grants are intended only for Anglican parish churches. With some 8,500 pre-Reformation churches (out of a total of 17,500) the Church of England certainly has both the oldest and the largest number of churches, but many of the buildings of other denominations deserve—and are eligible—for a proportionate share of the funds available. The Methodists, for example, have some 8,000 chapels. The Roman Catholic Church has 2,500 parochial churches, the

Mr David McNee, who has now taken over as Commissioner, has a different task before him than Sir Robert had five years ago. Although at the moment pre-occupied by issues affecting their pay and conditions, the Metropolitan Police command more confidence. Mr McNee is, as his first official statement showed yesterday, fully aware of the need to keep the public and the police in close mutual understanding. He has, perhaps, by temperament, not as extrovert a personality as that of Sir Robert, and is less likely to be as much in the public eye as his predecessor. Such differences of style do not matter if the objects to be achieved are the right ones, and are pursued with due enthusiasm. Mr McNee has made it clear that he intends broadly to follow the same main policies as did Sir Robert. That is a sensible approach. There is no case for a counter-reformation.

The one remaining important criterion is the size of employment within the British aircraft industry which each project would create. The British aerospace industry says that Nimrod would bring 7,000 jobs with it, many of them highly-skilled, while the American aircraft would give work for only 500 less-skilled workers. Boeing's figures are respectively 4,500 and 1,000. Nimrod should therefore be the British choice, and Mr Mulley should tell our Nato partners that such a decision will be for the good of the alliance, rather than to its detriment.

United Reformed Church formed from the Congregationalists and the Presbyterian Church of England have some 2,200 churches, 1,749 in England and belong to the Baptist Union. The Quakers have some 300-400 Meeting Houses still in use and the Unitarians have some 200 churches. To these must be added synagogues (though many fine ones perished in the war), the remarkable buildings of the Catholic Apostolic Church and even a mosque in the Church of England there is no equivalent of the Redundant Churches Fund to take churches no longer required for worship into guardianship.

Yours faithfully,
MARCUS BINNEY,
PETER BURMAN,
21 Cambridge Street, SW1.

Price of coffee

From Miss Elizabeth Creak

Sir, I realize that there has been a frost in Brazil, and there is not enough coffee to go round. I realize that the producer has his costs, and therefore must get more per kg for the coffee he is able to produce.

What I do not understand is why the grocer should join the bandwagon. Surely his rent, rates and labour, while they have increased, bear no relation to the loss of coffee in Brazil. Should not his mark up be expressed as a straight sum and not a percentage?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH CREAK,
Clyde Higgs Farm, Hatton Rock,
Stratford-upon-Avon.

National Trust and Mentmore

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, The National Trust has often been referred to in the correspondence about this great house. I should like to explain that until in all became public, the National Trust knew nothing about Mentmore not about the threat to it. Ten days ago, through informal contact with the Executives of the late Lord Rosebery, three members of its staff were shown round and their report was considered by the Executive Committee on March 11.

The Committee had no hesitation in saying that this outstanding nineteenth century country house, with its rich and wonderful contents so appropriate in their setting, would be accepted by the National Trust for permanent preservation if it was offered with sufficient protective land and if adequate funds for its repair and endowment could be found. It would take about four months for the National Trust to work out the very substantial sum of money it would be likely to need, and it earnestly hopes that some way of extending the period for decision can be agreed.

A longer time may also enable other solutions to be explored and the National Trust would be happy to play some part in a holding operation if this would be helpful. Yours faithfully,
I. D. BOLES,
Director-General,
The National Trust,
42 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
March 14.

From Mr Denis Mahon

Sir, Very much more than Lord Eccles's mere *ipse dixit* is required to authenticate, in the minds of those concerned for our cultural heritage, his preposterous claim (March 14) that the National Land Fund "is only a book entry". By this phrase he appears to contend that the Fund has no independent existence distinct from the general funds at the disposal of the Exchequer, and that whenever it is used "the cash has to be found out of the public purse".

The fact is that the fund, financed from the sale of surplus war stores, was set up in 1946 in the form of a trust as a war memorial. Its accounts have by statute to be presented annually to the House of Commons, which orders them to be printed and published; and the most recent account, for the year ended March 31, 1976, was published last month (House of Commons Paper No 157).

One Appendix in this document documents all transactions in securities during the year (the clear implication being that some holdings were sold on the open market), while another specifies in detail

Mr Phillipson claims that the National Travel Survey shows that 88 per cent of the population "never go on a train". It does nothing of the sort. It shows the proportion of journeys made by various methods of transport by sample of the population during a specific fortnight of the year, in which 12 per cent of all journeys were made by train. There is no doubt that it was not the same 12 per cent of the population which made these journeys each day and that a much wider cross-section of the population travelled by train at some time or other in the two weeks. Over a year, a much greater percentage again require to do travel by train.

The amount each household contributes in 1977 through taxation to British Rail is about £27—substantially less than the figure quoted, and a good deal less than the tax advantages each household pays the company car driver.

There is clear evidence that a 5 per cent transfer of commuters from rail to car would raise the level of peak hour car travel by almost 20 per cent with considerable resulting increase in road congestion.

Cost of rail travel

From Mr R. B. Reid

Sir, If the Director of the British Road Council can write a letter, as he did (Letters, March 2), in which his road traffic figures are wrong, the reader may perhaps be forgiven for examining more closely his other statistics and the arguments he builds on them.

During the period 1970-74, the number of people travelling into London by BR did indeed drop by 45,000 a day. But in the same period the number of people coming in by car went up (by over 12,000), not down, as claimed by Mr Phillipson. The trend was reversed in 1974-75 as the cost of motoring rose sharply. Presumably, however, Mr Phillipson would not agree that this trend was due to the rise in costs if we are to believe his contention that the loss of rail traffic has little or no connexion with rising fares.

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Raids on sauna clubs

From Mr W. H. Caswell

Sir, I write to draw your attention to what I feel to be a most unsatisfactory position that can arise out of police raids on consenting adults in what one assumes to be the privacy of cubicles or club premises. There can be no question of offence to the public or members only. As a result, so as to obtain evidence, the police must parade as patrons making young officers go into the sauna dressed only in towels. A parallel would be of young women constables being expected to observe heterosexual groups in a similarly undressed state. Given the alleged offences, the line must be very blurred between what is the enforcement of an agent provocateur and observation.

The effective penalties are cruel and savage. In a typical case a man may be married with a responsible job. The court penalty will be ruinous compared to the results of even an unsuccessful prosecution.

He can face months of anxiety, newspaper publicity resulting in the possible break up of his marriage and loss of his job and he can expect to pay legal fees including the almost certain Crown Court appearance of between £500 and £1,000.

With respect, I would submit that though there may be no other way, the methods used to obtain evidence combined with the effective entirely disproportionate penalties can only bring the law into disrepute.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. CASWELL,
Probation Officer,
Inner London Probation and After-Care Service,
175 Seymour Place, W1.

It does seem that public policy and the effects of such policy in this area can be damaging not only to those present when raids are made but also to the reputation of the police. One is dealing with a category of events which, precisely because of the privacy which surrounds them, require of the police methods which I am sure that they would never otherwise employ; the events and the publicity surrounding them, because of public prudence, have consequences which are out of all proportion to their potential legal implications.

Events in the sauna often appear to have been between entirely

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Declining morale in Britain

From Professor Elliott Jaques

Sir, There are two major forces destroying the morale of the working men and women of Britain.

They stem not from any change in the British character, but from the total inadequacy of our social institutions.

First, the widespread lack of institutions for real employee participation;

second, the utterly

outraged nature of our institutions of pay differentials.

These two issues are

intricately interwoven.

If these seemingly

arrangements euphemistically called

"productivity bargaining", threaten

to reintroduce fragmented negotiations

and perennial inflationary leapfrogging.

If these seemingly

intractable problems are to be eradicated, a

number of things must be done.

First, serious policy-making Works

Councils, made up of elected repre-

sentatives of all sections meeting

with top management, must be set

up on every site or complex of sites

employed by more than 350 people.

That will not only begin to tackle

the problem of alienation arising

over non-participation, but will also

bring all groups into face to face

discussion of their pay relativities.

At the same time, the Prime

Minister and the Government must

demonstrate that they have a

sensitive awareness of the differentials

issue. They must reassess the

situation that, as soon as the economic

situation allows, the problems of

alienation and sheer desperation

are continuously kept on the boil.

At the same time a profound

change in the pattern of payment

differentials has come about, largely

by default. When the social contract

was adopted there was little aware-

ness of the destruction of established



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 14: The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Shand, and the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council's Commonwealth Observance in Westminster Abbey this afternoon. Miss Rowena Brassy was in attendance.

Princess Margaret will attend a luncheon at the Hilton Hotel on Saturday in aid of the Champion Children of the Year awards in aid of Dr Barnardo's, of which she is president, on March 23.

A memorial service for Mr Justice Cobb will be held at Temple Church, London, today at 4.45 pm.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Brian Mountain will be held at St Peter's, Eaton Square, London, on Thursday, March 17, at 11.45 am.

Mr Edward Heath, MP, will open the Antiques Book Fair at the Burlington Hotel on Tuesday, June 14.

Mrs Martine Ellmer-Wilson gave birth to a daughter (Emilie) in Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, on Saturday.

Birthdays today

Sir Jack Gallard, 64; Mr Cyril H. Cotton, 75; Sir Theodore Constantine, 67; Sir Alexander Grantham, 78; Earl Haig, 59; Sir Michael Hogan, 70; Air Marshal Sir Patrick Lee Potter, 75; Sir George Pollock, QC, 76.

Today's engagements

The Duchess of Gloucester visits General Welfare of the Blind factory, Luton, 11.30.

British Theatre Museum, Leicester House, Holland Park Road, 11.5.

Luncheon talk by Mr Reginald Coe, MR. Buxton, Central Baptist church, Shaftesbury Avenue, 1.15.

Luncheon music: Margaret Kitchin, piano, City Music Society, Bishopsgate Hall, City, 1.05.

Lunch-hour dialogue: Mr Malcolm Muggeridge, with Mr Enoch Powell, MP, St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, 1.05.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition Olympia, 10.9.

Latest appointments

Recent appointments include: Lord Birtle of Handsworth, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, to be chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom for 1977-78 in succession to Sir John Habakkuk.

The following to be members of a steering group on library services, set up as a result of a recommendation in a university libraries under the chairmanship of Dr E. Anne Whiteman Vice-Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford:

Prof. A. J. Brown, Leeds University; Dr L. J. Butler, Principal, Royal Holloway and Bedfordshire University; Prof. G. G. Gowenlock, Heriot-Watt University; Mr. R. J. Perry, Mr. P. J. Williams, Marian University, University College London.

Prospective candidate
Mrs Brian Rixby, aged 32, a teacher of St. Albans, is to be prospective Liberal candidate for Hertford and Stevenage. At the general election Mrs Shirley Williams (Lab) had a majority of 9,046 in a four-cornered contest.

Faculty of anaesthetists
Professor J. W. Dundee, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and Professor S. Robinson, of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, have been elected to the Board of Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Luncheon

HM Government
Mrs Judith Hart, Minister of State for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon in honour of Senator A. Ortiz Mena, President of the Inter-American Development Bank at 1 Carlton Gardens, yesterday.

Floral luncheon

The annual Floral Luncheon will be held on May 11 at the Savoy Hotel, in aid of the Forces' Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops. The president is Sir Edward Pilkington and the chairman is Lady Sirona, Mrs. Jean Anderson and Lord Hunt of Fawley will be the speakers.

Reception

MEED Limited
The Chairman, Mrs Elizabeth Collard, and the Directors of Middle East Economic Development held a reception at Vinters' Hall, on Thursday, March 10, to mark the twentieth anniversary of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. E. Adams and Miss J. F. Hibbert
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr W. A. Adams, of Oulton Cross, Stone, Staffordshire, and of Mrs Adams, of Tenham Cottage, Cold Ash, Newbury, and Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hibbert, of Marine Drive, Poole, Dorset. The marriage will take place on July 16 at Poole.

Mr D. H. Exland and Miss J. L. Hext
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Major W. L. and Emily Exland, of the Royal Hotel, Ewell, Surrey, and Jacqueline, daughter of the late Mr. J. W. Hext, and of Mrs. J. Hext, of Irrelake, Lewisham, London, Cornwall.

Mr M. F. A. Borrelli and Miss C. P. J. Dundas-Petrie
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. M. B. Helps, of The Coachman's House, Warbrook Castle, Cuckfield, West Sussex, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. H. Dundas-Petrie, of Relgate, Surrey.

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Mr P

SPORT

Rugby Union

Extra spice in full measure for John Player Cup semi-finals

By Richard Streeton

That extra spice always given to rugby fixtures by regional rivalry was added in full measure to yesterday's draw for the semi-final round of the John Player Cup. Goforth, the holders, travel to meet London Welsh and the Saracens visit Waterloo in the matches to be played on April 2. Both games bring teams into opposition that do not regularly play each other.

Goforth and London Welsh, in fact, have never previously met, though by coincidence an inaugural fixture had already been arranged between them. Their pairing now has brought together what to most people look the two strongest surviving clubs in the competition. Certainly, they were the sides both Saracens and Waterloo would have chosen to avoid.

A drastic clash in approach and style seems likely to mark the tie at Old Deer Park. Goforth rely heavily on their powerful forwards and, although they lack a back-line, London Welsh will still retain to a large extent the preference for fluent handling and running which has been their hallmark for a decade.

Dotey, the England captain,

who missed Goforth's win 3-0 in their Gloucester on Saturday's third round, should definitely be fit to take part. His partnership with his England team colleague, Dixon, in the back row and the outcome of the Cup this season, though not this winter, should go a long way to one home draw in 12 Cup matches.

The pendulum in the matter of travel has also swung violently for Saracens, who on Saturday beat Flyde 18-8 away from home, and must now return to the scenes of their triumph at Blandfords. Saracens, who, before this year, had never got beyond the second round, had played eight cup games spread over six seasons, all in London, before last weekend.

A strong and well-equipped team, Saracens quickly made plans yesterday to travel overnight again before the semi-final match. They will be keeping their fingers crossed that Captain, their coach, and Smithers, their creative centre, will have recovered from injuries which forced them to miss the game with Flyde. They have matched scheduled with Coventry three days before the semi-final, though this has now been postponed.

Certainly, Saracens should not underestimate Waterloo

important asset for them at Old Deer Park, something of which Goforth are fully aware. Goforth will be travelling away from home for the first time in the Cup this season, though not this winter, and the result will go one home draw in 12 Cup matches.

The pendulum in the matter of travel has also swung violently for Saracens, who on Saturday beat Flyde 18-8 away from home, and must now return to the scenes of their triumph at Blandfords. Saracens, who, before this year, had never got beyond the second round, had played eight cup games spread over six seasons, all in London, before last weekend.

A strong and well-equipped team, Saracens quickly made plans yesterday to travel overnight again before the semi-final match. They will be keeping their fingers crossed that Captain, their coach, and Smithers, their creative centre, will have recovered from injuries which forced them to miss the game with Flyde. They have matched scheduled with Coventry three days before the semi-final, though this has now been postponed.

Certainly, Saracens should not underestimate Waterloo

Schools sevens entry reaches record

By Richard Streeton

Sponsorship is again coming from the Midland Bank, and Lillywhites.

The format over the four days involves the usual five separate entries: one for schools with older rugby in only one winter term; an open competition; two others for junior and preparatory schools; and a plate event.

Part of Rosslyn Park's centenary celebrations will be an additional day at the schoolboy sevens, when an overseas invitational tournament will be staged. So far 15 countries have committed to the tournament and decisions are still awaited from Australia and Greece, among others. South Africa have not replied to an invitation; Fiji declined because of costs; while Samoa, of Gloucestershire, served for two consecutive years.

John Danby, immediately after the last war, J. E. Greenwood and Major-General B. A. Hill both held office for two years in the 1930s, and in 1929-30 W. T. Pearce, of Gloucestershire, served for the first of the successive seasons. So a second tie, though not customary in the modern era, certainly is not without precedent.

In all, something like 2,300 boys will therefore be involved in about 450 matches during the competition which takes place from March 22 to 25 at the grounds of three clubs in the Southampton area: Rosslyn Park, Sandy Lane of England, and KCS Old Boys.

With the continued good response from the junior and preparatory schools, a sign that rugby is retaining its appeal among the younger players.

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Jeeps unlikely to stay on as RFU president

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

There is an increasing ground-swell of opinion within the English game that Dickie Jeeps should continue as president of the Rugby Football Union for a further year because of his dynamic leadership. However, I understand that after considering all the implications the Union have decided that modern practice should be adhered to and that Sir Anthony Wharton, the general secretary, should receive his knighthood in the New Year's Honours List for services to the Territorial Army, should go forward as their official nomination at the annual general meeting in July.

Sir Anthony tells me that no less an advocate than Lord Wakefield, that most illustrious of England forwards, who was RFU president over 25 years ago, wrote to him to suggest that he might consider giving up his run for 12 months.

Having discussed the matter with Mr Jeeps, who indicated that he was willing to serve for another year if that was the general wish, Sir Anthony promptly offered himself in the hands of his fellow Union officers.

This was a characteristic reaction from a lifelong servant of the game who is anxious to what is best for the RFU, and who will be a valuable addition to the committee. I am sure that his wit and dedication to the post when his term of office begins. He represents Notts, Lincs and Derby, of whom he is past president and honorary secretary, and is president of that Nottingham club in its centenary year. It will be seen by his intention as president to ask Mr Jeeps to continue in the closest touch with the England selectors and players.

The last RFU president to serve for two consecutive years was John Danby, immediately after the last war. J. E. Greenwood and Major-General B. A. Hill both held office for two years in the 1930s, and in 1929-30 W. T. Pearce, of Gloucestershire, served for the first of the successive seasons. So a second tie, though not customary in the modern era, certainly is not without precedent.

Mr Jeeps was not available for comment yesterday, having just left Hampden Park, Glasgow, on March 20. The other semi-final will be between Celtic and Dundee at Hampden a week later. The final has been arranged for Hampden on Saturday, May 7.

Football

FA decision on match in Belfast is postponed

The Football Association have

postponed their decision on whether

England will play their semi-

international match with Northern

Ireland at strife-torn Belfast on

May 28 for at least two weeks.

A meeting of the FA Council in

London yesterday was expected

to discuss recommendations of

the international committee,

but following the

tragedy at Hillsborough

tomorrow, Croker, the FA sec-

retary, said: "The matter was not

discussed.

A final decision has been de-

ferred and we want to leave it

as late as possible to consider the

position in Belfast.

The Irish have not given us any

deadline for the

decision.

The draw for the ladder leading up to

the trial and the nations XV.

This certainly would not have

been agreed this season without

such a harrowing

incident.

The draw of the semi-final

round of the FA Vase made in

London yesterday, when

Southfield Town v Bletchley

and St Albans v Hartson

was announced yesterday.

Details on April 3 and April 9.

Two Villa players are doubtful for replay

McKenzie a septic wound on his shin. Both missed yesterday's night training, but should be fit.

Queen's Park Rangers' captain, Gerry Francis, will not be making his debut for the team for tomorrow's Uefa Cup quarter-final game against AEK. Francis pulled a hamstring on Saturday and will be

striving to get back in time for treatment on Saturday.

A hospital examination removed

fears of damage to Little's ankle bone, but he is still in considerable

discomfort. Peter Croker, the

international committee member,

is still troubled by his long-standing ham-

string injury, and Little has a

badly swollen ankle as a legacy of

the goalless draw, at Wembley, last Saturday.

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Coming to terms with cheap textile imports, page 24

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
LOCAL
OR NATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Leyland accepts prospect of drastic investment cutback

By Our Industrial Staff

With trading losses ranging between £10m and £15m a week, the state-owned British Leyland vehicle manufacturing group now accepts that drastic changes to its "1977 Business Plan"—this embraces the huge Mini investment project—are inevitable unless the Government authorizes the parent National Enterprise Board to provide short-term assistance from April 1.

For the time being, Leyland's big suppliers and bankers are standing by the strike-hit company. But they expect prompt action by Whitehall to protect their interests.

On Friday, the board of British Leyland is due to release its preliminary financial results for the 15 months ending December 31, 1976. It is deeply worried that the £75m profit for that period will be misinterpreted by the workforce, as it has come from non-car activities and exchange rate gains.

The return on capital is, in fact, negligible and what matters now is the current trading position, with no contribution being made by Leyland Cars, contrary to the 1977 business plan and its benchmarks on financing (this year for every £1m due to be supplied by the NER, the Leyland board has to find £1.5m in matching resources).

The NER has already concluded that it is unable to make further funds available for what is known in official documents as the Cars Plan, and the Government has supported this decision. For its part the Leyland board has no hope of avoiding its duty to act as a normal company when faced with a crisis of capital, unless there are some 11th-hour

guarantees to buy more time. The dimensions of the crisis will be clarified tomorrow when a Commons Select Committee of MPs begins questioning Leyland's top management and the NER as well as senior civil servants.

Yesterday, Leyland's senior executives were ready to admit that the company had failed to meet most of the criteria for improved industrial relations laid down in the Ryder Committee report on the future of Leyland and its corporate plan is now well behind schedule.

More Leyland car workers were laid off yesterday, making a total of 41,500 idle. All but 1,000 of these are a direct result of the six-week strike by 3,000 rootroom operatives. Hard hit plants are Longbridge and Cowley, with 15,300 and 12,500 lay-offs respectively.

Ten of Leyland's 18-strong range of cars are not being produced.

The strike is now causing serious problems for component suppliers. Whilton Breden, Birmingham manager of door fittings and bumpers, yesterday reported that a further 350 employees had been put on short time, making 780 in all.

Ending of the 11-week-old strike at Massey-Ferguson, a major customer for the component makers, has eased the situation temporarily. But there is increasing concern about the position of component suppliers as unsecured creditors of British Leyland.

Some 1,500 workers at the Ransome Hoffmann Pollard bearings factory at Amfield Plain in Co Durham, have been put on a four-day week.

Although the Government, through its 95 per cent holding in Leyland, may have a moral obligation to its suppliers, it

has no legal obligation. For this reason a number of the smaller component firms will soon be forced to protect themselves by introducing pro forma invoicing—payment on delivery.

Big suppliers like Lucas and Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds are maintaining normal credit facilities although watching the position very closely. A Lucas executive said last night: "Our settlement date for Leyland remains what it is for other firms—the end of the month. We have not resorted to pro forma invoicing although that must be a temptation for some of the small suppliers."

Another component manufacturer said: "We have more at stake than Leyland in seeing the company past its present crisis. For every 40 workers employed by Leyland there are another 60 supporting them in the component industry. It is up to all of us to tighten our belts and try to see them through."

"I cannot see any of the major suppliers pulling the plug on Leyland and demanding payment against delivery—at least not until the end of the month."

"But our stock inventories are rising fast and we shall soon have to protect ourselves by cutting back production and laying off workers. We could have more than one-third of our employees laid off within a fortnight."

Leyland has urged suppliers to maintain production until the last possible moment to build component stocks in readiness of a resumption. Leyland has said that it plans to work maximum possible overtime in its car plants to try to recover some of the lost ground before the vital spring and summer sales period.



Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, arriving at British Leyland headquarters in London yesterday.

Heads of 21 unions in search for peace formula

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Trade talks between leaders of the 21 unions in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, and management of the state-owned car company continued into the night as losses mounted to £12m a week net, and the prospects for holding on to Leyland's share of the British market idly slumped.

The talks were adjourned after nearly six hours and "due to the seriousness of the position" the unions and the company are seeking advice from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. The discussions will resume at midday today.

British Leyland dealers are beginning to switch to other makes, including foreign cars, and waiting times for some models have now gone up to a year.

But the company announced new lay-offs of 4,000 at the Rover body plant in Llandelli and another 2,000 men at Cowley be-

cause of the toolmakers' unofficial strike now in its fourth week.

Top officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, including Mr John Boyd, the general secretary, met the union's sponsored MPs in Parliament last night to discuss the growing risk to Leyland's future.

Their talks were aimed at producing a political initiative which would secure Leyland's long-term future, and produce a package of measures which could mitigate the short-term harm caused by the constraint of Phase Two incomes policy.

British Leyland yesterday refused to go on the defensive over its industrial relations record, arguing that if it were free to stand its pay bargaining structures, the state firm could meet its target of one million cars a year.

The loss of man-hours due to stoppages in Leyland factories last year amounted to only half the 1975 total, but the chief

culprit was the cars division. In the bus and truck plants, the loss was only 0.41 per cent of man-hours, and it was half in the special products group.

There were 700 strikes in Leyland last year, but it is pointed out that every work-halt of more than one hour is logged in company records as a strike. More than 80 per cent of the man-hours lost through industrial action were attributable to about a dozen big stoppages in the car division.

Most of the disputes were resolved on terms originally offered by the management.

Leyland's car division management recognizes the gravity of the situation, but lays some of the blame on the vagaries of history and the inheritance of 37 plants with 120 bargaining units manned by shop stewards as opposed to the company's system.

This process, on which tentative beginnings were made before the EEC policy was introduced in 1975, will be restarted as soon as the company is given the freedom to negotiate under a flexible Phase Three.

But even when this move towards centralized bargaining is allowed to proceed again, shop stewards are expected to slow up the process because they are suspicious of the shift away from plant bargaining. A halfway house, leaving some matters over to plant negotiation, may be all that is permissible under the next round of incomes policy.

"That habit dies hard," it is argued, "and that habit is one of the reasons we are now in trouble."

But the company announced new lay-offs of 4,000 at the Rover body plant in Llandelli and another 2,000 men at Cowley be-

Tea could cost 38p a quarter by the summer

A warning yesterday that tea could reach 34p to 38p a quarter by the late summer may cause Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to ask the Price Commission to intervene.

Prices shot up again at the London Tea Auction in the City, and Mr Willie Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife, Central, demanded that the Government take action over "blatant gambling" in the tea market.

The average price rose from 18p a kilogram (80p a pound) last week to more than 22.

Mr George Neale, chairman of the Tea Brokers Association, said afterwards: "The average price will be much lower. I should think it will be slightly in excess of 22 a kilo."

Dealers estimated that if the average settled at about 210p a kilo, prices in the shops could reach 34p to 38p.

Two investment trusts in £70m merger discussions

By Christopher Wilkins

Two more investment trusts are planning a merger to create a grouping worth more than £100m.

United States Debenture Corporation and London Scottish American Trust, both of which are linked to the merchant bank Brown Shipton, have reached an advanced stage for a merger on the basis of a share exchange at net asset values.

Mr Ian Garbett-Orme, former chairman of Brown Shipton, is chairman of both trusts.

The merger proposal, which is likely to be viewed as a defensive one to deter unwelcome bidders, is yet further evidence of the revival of activity in the investment trust sector. In

January a similar merger plan was revealed by Cable Trust and Globe Investment Trust, together worth about £190m, which are both managed by Electra Group Services.

A link-up between United States Debenture Corporation, which has an asset value of some £45m, and London Scottish American, valued at £26m, is likely to generate speculation about the possibility of Brown Shipton subsequently bidding for the trusts along the lines of the present Guinness bid for London Electrical & General Trust.

The two trusts are both heavily invested in North American assets. These account for some 40 per cent of United States Debenture's investments and about 50 per cent of London Scottish American's.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 174.42+3.31

The FT index: 428.9+13.0

Rises

Ass Port Comnt 9p to 194p
Beecham 10p to 444p
De Beers Ind 15p to 375p
Finlay, J. 20p to 215p
FMC 16p to 85p
Gill & Davies 13p to 206p
Globo 17p to 482p
Gt Univ Stores 15p to 225p
Hawker Sidde 12p to 540p
Imp Chem Ind 20p to 215p
Lilley FIC 4p to 40p
Marley 6p to 69p

Falls

Ayer Wmtn 22p to 375p
Brown Shipton 8p to 130p

Equities surged ahead.

Oil-edged securities were also strong.

Steering closed just under the 51.72 level.

Gold fell 51.50 an ounce to \$144.875.

SDR-5 was 1.15689 on Monday, while SDR-5 was 0.673276.

Commodities: Renter's index was at 1720.8 (previous 1727.3).

The effective rate was unchanged at 52.0 (December 1971-100) on the new index.

On other pages

Business appointments 24
Appointments vacant 11, 14, 28
Financial news 24
Financial Editor 23
Letters 23
Diary 23

THE POUND

Paterson Zoch 20p to 200p
Reckitt & Colman 15p to 370p
Rit Tinto Zinc 7p to 215p
Scot Univ Inv 10p to 120p
Shell 11p to \$100
Taylor Woodrow 16p to 10p
Unilever 14p to 22p
Umt City Merc 4p to 22p
Vickers 12p to 178p
Wigfall, H. 23p to 150p
Yarrow 15p to 214p

Rate for small denomination bank notes out as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to various countries and other foreign currency business.

Market reports

Share prices 20
Europe 24
Bank Base Rates Table 25
Annual Statements: 22
Federated Land & Building 22
Glass & Metal Holdings 23

Record Ridgway

R. Smalshaw 25
Preliminary Announcements:
Merchants Trust 23

Share prices have best day for three months

Share prices burst through the psychological 420 barrier on the stock market in London yesterday as the scent of an easing of dividend restraint brought a strong demand that was later sustained by the trade figures.

The FT 30-share index, 9.7 up at 3 pm, gained another 3.3 after the trade news no close a full 13 points better at 428.8, its highest level since November 1973, and strongest daily performance for almost three months.

Dealers said the initial impetus came from the Treasury's decision to exempt the Inheritance Tax from dividend controls because of the high overseas content of its earnings. This was interpreted as a "chunk of light in the dividend curtain."

Many of these ended with double-figure gains, but secondary stocks were largely overlooked. With the Budget due in two weeks, most market men expect the traditional market run-up to take the index to the 450 mark now that 420 has been breached.

Government stocks also had a strong session, spurred by hopes of lower interest rates

Borthwick makes £10m takeover bid direct to FMC shareholders

By Ronald Pullen

After months of stock market rumours, Thomas Borthwick finally made its move for fellow meat traders and processors, the NFU Trust, yesterday.

Borthwick is offering seven of its own shares for every six in FMC which, with Borthwick, 3p to 8p on the news of the offer, values FMC at 101.4p a share compared with a pre-bid price of 70p and a high of 95p last year.

This places a value of just over £10m on FMC, though Borthwick currently holds 1.75 per cent of FMC's equity.

In the closely-knit meat business the two companies are well known to each other. Two years ago FMC approached Borthwick with a view to agreeing merger terms but talks broke down following the imbroglio with the NFU Development Trust, which had previously made a 65p a share offer for FMC.

Talks between the two began in earnest last November, but following failure to agree terms, Borthwick has now decided to go over the head of the FMC board and the NFU Trust, which now holds 42.9 per cent of the equity.

He also thought that the two groups could together better exploit the growing intra-EEC meat business, particularly as Borthwick's abattoirs have already received their EEC licence.

Dr Bullen felt that to bring FMC's abattoirs up to EEC standards would place some strain on its cash flow in the next few years.

Following its purchase of Midland Castle Products, Dr Bullen also thought that Borthwick's could make better use of FMC's animal by-products facilities.

He did not think, however, that the takeover could lead to a monopoly reference, except on size of assets criteria, since the two concerns together did not control more than 16 per cent of any segment of the meat or poultry markets.

Borthwick said yesterday that notwithstanding the striking logic of a merger, the board of FMC and the representatives of the NFU Trust have so far declined to accept Borthwick's proposals or to recommend them to shareholders.

Explaining the logic, Dr Bill Bullen, chairman of Borthwick, said that "FMC's large domestic fresh and frozen meat business would complement Borthwick's large overseas and export business".

He described Borthwick's approach as an attempt to capitalize on FMC's return to profitability after the trauma of recent years following the NFU Trust's abortive efforts to take over FMC in 1974 and its successful efforts to take over management control just over a year ago.

Neither the Stock Exchange nor the Takeover Panel would say whether or not they were considering an inquiry into dealings in FMC shares prior to yesterday's bid announcement.

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Plessey workers end lockouts to allow more talks on closures

By R. W. Shakespeare

Workers at four Plessey Telecommunications factories on Merseyside yesterday called off the lockout of senior management after members of three white collar unions voted to open the way for further talks with the company.

Members of the three unions—Apex (clerical and computer staff), ASTMS (scientific, technical and supervisors) and TASS (the technical and supervisory section of the AUEW)—refused admission to leading executives at the plants after Plessey announced more than a week ago impending factory closures and redundancies that would mean the loss of some 4,000 jobs, mostly on Merseyside and in the north-east.

The company's headquarters

plans at Edge Lane, in Liverpool was one of those at which the lockout took place and senior management have operated from a Chester hotel.

Protest action by the unions over the planned closures and cuts for which the company blames a fall in Post Office orders for telephone equipment is by no means over.

Union shop floor representatives will oppose the cuts in talks with the company at local level on Merseyside and nationally. These are likely to get underway today.

The Government is already under pressure to intervene, especially on Merseyside, where unemployment already stands at 10.6 per cent. The Plessey cuts would mean the loss of 1,300 jobs.

A union spokesman said after yesterday's decision to end the

lockout: "This is simply a move to allow further talks to take place. It is by no means an end to the opposition to the closures and redundancies."

Among suggestions put to the Government is that finance should be provided to launch a workers' cooperative in one or more of the Merseyside plants that are to close.

Government spokesmen have said that before any such proposal could be considered there would have to be a practical product for the plants concerned.

In a statement last week Plessey gave a warning that the action being taken at the Merseyside plants was producing a "complex legal situation" and that the workers involved ran the risk of forfeiting their rights to pay and compensation—including redundancy pay.

The Government's position is that before any such proposal could be considered there would have to be a practical product for the plants concerned.

The company's headquarters

Pact with Spain on steel bars

Further protection for Britain's steel industry against foreign imports was announced by the Government yesterday. New minimum prices of imports of steel reinforcing bars have been agreed with Spain by the Department of Trade.

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, told the Commons yesterday that the agreement on new minimum prices followed prolonged negotiations with the Spanish authorities.

No details were given of the prices which have been agreed, but according to trade sources they are thought to be between £140 and £150 a tonne in line with present market prices being charged by British steel producers.

The first application for an anti-dumping duty against imports of Spanish reinforcing bars—a volatile commodity product in the steel business widely used in the construction industry—was first lodged in September, 1975.

Mr Dell said yesterday that since then there had been a considerable increase in world steel prices and a new price agreement had been sought.

Mr Dell disclosed that the Government was also launching an anti-dumping investigation into imports of steel light sections and flats from Japan.

Dearer flour plea withdrawn

By Derek Harris

Planned price increases for bakers' flours and products, submitted by three millers for Price Commission approval have been withdrawn, the Commission reported yesterday.

In February, Spillers-French Milling wanted a 3.87 per cent increase on flours. Hovemeyer wanted 5.05 per cent and Isaac Andrews and Sons 5.34 per cent on flour products.

But a range of cement price

rises have been agreed, although with some modifications. Among seven pricing applications most were allowed at around the 3.25 per cent level.

Associated Portland Cement modified a 3.47 per cent increase to 3.26 per cent, although special cement goes up 6.66 per cent. Rugby Portland Cement and Tunnel Cement have agreed a 3.26 per cent increase, also down from 3.47 per cent.

Harp Lager associates to produce 'own brands'

By Ronald Kimber

A major change of policy has taken place within the Harp Lager consortium which means that from next year all new production capacity will be provided by the major members, Guinness, Courage, and Scottish & Newcastle, who will be free to produce "own brands" of lager alongside Harp and Kronenbourg.

Guinness is to build a £7m lager extension to its brewery at Park Royal, London, and Courage said last night that it was holding discussions with another brewer, not thought to be British, about the introduction of a new lager to its products.

It had been widely thought that the company's announced search for a new brewery site in the South Tyneside area heralded the introduction of an "English" lager by S&N.

While there are good reasons, such as cost and location, for the consortium not to build a brewery but rather rely on new capacity from individual partners, it would appear that there are distinct divisions of opinion among the members.

There has been much specu-

Vickers and ICL control systems

Computer news

New computer-based manufacturing-control systems are being introduced by the engineering group of Vickers, after collaboration with ICL and Dataskill and support from the Department of Industry.

A general-purpose manufacturing system is expected to be launched soon by ICL; two adapted versions of this are being developed in-house by Vickers.

Under the overall name COMACS (On-line manufacturing and control system), two projects were brought together into a single development in 1975. One was a Vickers production-control project; the other, the ICL-Dataskill project for a simple production-control system for the ICL 2903 small computer.

Joint talks resulted in a ICL development contract with ICL; a contract for Dataskill to write the software for ICL; and an agreement between ICL and Vickers which defined the Vickers participation as the initial user.

ICL's general system, it is expected, will initially have three modules, covering work in progress monitoring; requirements planning and stock control; and on-line input and inquiry. It will be aimed at small and medium-sized engineering companies using ICL 2903, 2904 and 1900-series computers.

In a general-purpose extension of the basic ICL package, Vickers are developing more advanced on-line system which will provide more comprehensive inquiry facilities. This uses the TPS 1900 teleprocessing monitor developed by Telecomputing, Oxford, (with government support under the Software Products Scheme).

Vickers plan to market this

version, possibly through Data-skill, later.

The second Vickers adaptation of the ICL package consists of interfaces and extensions which are being written in order to link the general systems with particular in-house installations.

Vickers Engineering Group's main computer centre is at Interlink House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Other centres are at Leeds, Swindon, York and Paris, all of which use ICL 2903 or 2904 machines. An ICL 1903T at Newcastle is to be replaced by a 2960 towards the end of this year.

CUYB directory

Details of 745 software products are included in *CUYB Directory of Software 1977*, published today at £15 by the Computer Users' Year Book.

They include work on computing methods, computing with communications, database, software, microprocessors, privacy and security, and standardization.

This coincides with the

Research service

A subscription-based research service covering computer systems, telecommunications and office automation is to be provided by the British Computer Foundation, a recently formed offshoot of Burin Cox & Partners, the London-based consultants. The research projects will be managed by Mr Roger Woolfe.

Kenneth Owen

THE FOLLOWING are the unit value index numbers for visible trade not seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the January trade figures, seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors, as released by the Department of Trade:

Exports Imports Visible Balance £m £m £m

1972 111.0 109.6 101.3

1973 125.0 139.7 90.2

1974 162.7 218.0 74.6

1975 198.5 245.0 81.0

1976 Q1 240.6 299.4 80.4

Q2 234.2 268.3 81.6

Q3 247.4 307.3 80.5

Q4 261.7 330.0 79.3

1977 April 228.4 285.4 80.0

May 233.9 294.2 79.5

June 240.4 301.1 79.8

July 242.6 306.1 79.3

Aug 247.9 308.0 80.5

Sept 251.7 311.8 80.7

Oct 256.4 322.0 79.6

Nov 261.8 332.7 78.7

Dec 266.9 335.4 79.6

1977 Jan 272.7 335.1 81.4

Feb p 273.9 336.8 80.8

Export unit value index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index, p. Provisions.

UK TRADE

The following are the January trade figures, seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors, as released by the Department of Trade:

Exports Imports Visible Balance £m £m £m

1974 15,899 21,119 -5,220

1975 19,372 22,574 -3,195

1976 20,000 22,685 -2,685

1976 Q1 5,511 8,399 -3,588

Q2 6,209 7,128 -919

Q3 6,400 7,548 -1,148

Q4 7,074 8,061 -987

1977 April 2,932 2,224 -292

May 2,018 2,369 -351

June 2,070 2,395 -325

July 1,959 2,474 -515

Aug 2,078 2,582 -276

Sept 2,050 2,591 -531

Oct 2,206 2,824 -318

Nov 2,320 2,775 -455

Dec 2,448 2,662 -214

1977 Jan 2,472 3,004 -532

Feb p 2,432 2,821 -189

Exports Imports Visible Balance £m £m £m

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Feb p 2,432 2,821 -189

Exports Imports Visible Balance £m £m £m

1977 Jan 2,472 3,004 -532

Feb p 2,432 2,821 -189

Exports Imports Visible Balance £m £m £m

1977 Jan 2,472 3,004 -5

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Through the 420 barrier



Dr Bill Bullen, chairman of Thomas Borthwick: Rumours about an FMC bid prove true

seas assets would not put a company within the Inchcape category, a point which would appear to exclude a number of otherwise prime candidates for exemption such as Fosse Mincep, Coates, Patons, the insurance brokers and so forth.

Borthwick's 85 per cent of overseas earnings is supported by nearly around 60 per cent of foreign assets, and so the list narrows to the clear international traders and the mining and oil groups. Top of any list of possibilities must be Rio Tinto-Zinc, with 90 per cent of earnings and assets abroad. Selection Trust, with between 90 and 100 per cent of its earnings and assets overseas, Consolidated Goldfields, with over 80 per cent abroad and Charles Consolidated with a similar split.

Elsewhere, BATs, with 83 per cent of its assets outside the country and 90 per cent of its earnings from abroad might sit through the Inchape gap night. Shell and BP, although their political factors are added to the problems of defining overseas assets a combination which would no doubt create insurmountable problems.

Needless to say, an excessively inflationary Budget—followed by an unsatisfactory compromise of a pay policy—would throw all financial markets into a swift reverse.

For the moment, however, it looks very much as if settlement is in a phase where it is going to be governed by thoughts of falling interest rates, budget concessions and an unravelling of a profit and investment-oriented industrial strategy.

So, given the recharging of institutional liquidity of late, it seems quite possible to envisage the FMC index going towards 450 instead of the Budget—mark that the state of optimistic notes about the inflationary scope available to the Chancellor do seem to be building up the potential for something of an audience.

Dividends

Following Inchape.

Meanwhile, the Treasury's decision to free Inchape from dividend controls on the basis that it is an overseas trader resulted in the expected flood of inquiries from groups with substantial overseas earnings yesterday, and an renewed market enthusiasm for international traders, mining and oil companies high on the foreign earnings list.

The Treasury protests that the Inchape decision does not represent a relaxation in the interpretation of dividend regulations, but given recent government comments on the importance of precedent in implementing the controls, it is hard to see how the Treasury could now reasonably refuse application for exemption from companies with a similar or greater proportion of overseas earnings and assets than Inchape.

Inchape, Ocean Wilsons and Nigerian Electricity Supply are the three main companies to be given exemption from the controls under the regulations originally framed to exclude groups which, were technically British, were exclusively overseas operators.

These three companies are subject to British tax laws and to currency exchange regulations. But in each case overseas assets of earnings represent more than 80 per cent of the total. It would seem that high overseas earnings without an equally high proportion of over-

Armstrong Equipment

Acquisitions

paying off

Armstrong Equipment's aggressive acquisition of automotive part wholesale distributors—it seemed to be buying up nearly everything on offer last year—is already beginning to pay off, but heavy initial costs have cut margins in the six months to January 2.

Sales are up 60 per cent while profits showed a 50 per cent rise to £2.7m. In the second half increased benefits will flow from the wholesale outlets as Armstrong's reorganisation and the advantages as a major buyer take effect, while the strong performers of the first half should continue to improve.

Armstrong has been benefiting, like other United Kingdom motor component suppliers, from a strong upturn in the market. Its product range has been increasing, and its new outlets have given its own manufactured products a wider public, but the potential from the new suspension regulations of the MOT test which came

I went a little too far in saying that the London Metal Exchange had actually suspended non-trade activity in lead after the sharp rise in prices this year. In fact, the situation is that the Department of Industry has asked the Bank of England to investigate dealings in lead after the claims by the British Battery Manufacturers' Association that LME prices had been inflated by speculative activity.

The judges by commodity brokers' associations yesterday that markets are as sensitive as ever to changes that anything other than good old demand and supply governs price movements, despite the tacit admission last week that speculators had the cocoa market by the throat.

Business Diary: Potts luck? • Cochran of the FBI

Resistance

Jay Cochran is in London today for an unusually public get-together of policemen.

Cochran is an assistant to FBI director Clarence Kelley, and later today will chair a seminar at the American Embassy on crime prevention in business.

One of his speakers will be Jean Nepote, who is the secretary-general of Interpol, the St Cloud, Paris-based international police information clearing house.

If the job at Woolworth was a big step into unknown territory after such a long involvement with engineering, the switch to what he terms a "financial conglomerate" is seen solely as a career development.

Travel is also an important career but once the growth elements are identified, he is confident that making profits for one business is much the same as another.

But it is clear that ambition more than a taste for faraway places and wider financial experience are driving him forward. He insists that Hogg has never dangled the prospects of the chair in front of him but, as

into effect on January 1 have yet to bite and there should be a gradual growing demand for replacement shock absorbers, or which Armstrong is a major manufacturer, in the current half.

The shares fell 1p to 47p despite the extractions of sharply improving profits of £6.1m is expected for the year against £4.2m. And there are fears that in the longer-term Armstrong could run out of steam as the benefits of the wholesale acquisitions are realized and shock absorber composition increases. A prospective yield of 6.6 per cent and a price of 74 makes the shares fully valued, are no help in the shares at this stage.

Interim: 1976/77 (1975/76)
Capitalization £21.9m
Sales £29.5m (£18.4m)
Pre-tax profits £2.7m (£1.8m)
Dividend gross 1.1p (1.0p)

Borthwick/FMC

NFU on the rack

Once again FMC shareholders find themselves in the middle of a controversial bid, this time from fellow meat traders Thomas Borthwick, where they may feel that their interests are likely to play second fiddle to the wider interests of the NFU Development Trust whose chief concern is to secure outlets for its members' produce.

Yesterday, FMC with the enthusiastic support of the NFU which now owns just under 43 per cent of the equity began drawing up their lines of defence strictly on the grounds that the bid had little commercial logic rather than the terms were inadequate.

Certainly, the NFU would seem to have little justification for shoving out the bid on financial terms when Borthwick's offer places a value of 101p a share on FMC against a pre-bid price of 70p and some 50 per cent more than the NFU's abortive approach three years ago.

True, that was launched at a time when FMC was in a much groggier state than it appears to be in now while assets per share of 122p in the latest annual statement could be half as much again on an up-to-date valuation. But in terms of the capital and income gains shareholders stand to get, they are being offered a reasonably attractive way out of what is still a very unsatisfactory situation with the NFU sitting uncomfortably in the wings.

But the practicalities of the situation are that Borthwick must sway the NFU if it is to win control and already Borthwick's advisers are talking of a cash alternative or sweetener.

Certainly, the NFU finds itself in an extremely awkward position since having bulldozed its way into FMC and creating a good deal of ill-will along the way it cannot easily throw in the towel to Borthwick without losing a lot of face.

As far as Borthwick itself there is little doubt that it needs to balance a good home business to counterbalance the vagaries of its overseas meat interests which have produced such a switchback record in recent years while at the same time FMC will help ease its adverse corporation tax problems; while only a 3p drop in its shares to 87p yesterday indicates that the market is taking a more sanguine view of its paper now.

Meanwhile, the other issue about which both sides were tossing mutual recriminations is the gurting in the FMC share price in recent months. Bid rumours have been in the air ever since FMC and Borthwick started talking about a takeover last November but that does not explain the sharp fall in FMC last Friday when talks eventually broke down. There has been a false market in the shares for the best part of three months and that is something The Stock Exchange should now be looking into.

Mr Meynell's tough stance in the preliminary shadow boxing gave heart to the hard pressed European textile industry which

we were unable to speak out in our own defence."

He is in London as part of the bureau's interest in what is the United States called "crime resistance" and in this country "crime prevention".

Prevention, Cochran said yesterday, is cheaper either than detection or investigation.

It was the use of this support to keep an eye on Nixon enemies rather than suspected criminals that brought fresh notoriety to the FBI under the directorship of Patrick Gray.

Cochran, who was appointed to his post after the Watergate episode, would only say yesterday that, whatever had gone on inside the FBI at the time, it was the bureau that prosecuted the inquiries that led to the Watergate trials.

"The feeling in the FBI is now one of optimism", he said.

"In all these critical episodes

Ar a time when the clearing banks are under the threat of nationalization it seems singularly inappropriate that the big four among them should over the past three weeks have come up with such spectacular increases in their profits for 1976.

Between them, Barclays, National Westminster, Midland and Lloyds have produced a pre-tax surplus of almost £700m, an improvement of 64 per cent on the previous year's performance—and that at a time when the demand for loans, particularly from industrial customers, has been almost static.

The banks are perfectly well aware that under these circumstances they are open to the charge of having a licence to print money; and if the charge is difficult to repudiate—bank profits rise when interest rates are high and all the banks admit that the rise in base rate last year was an important factor in their pre-tax advance—they have at any rate been exercising themselves to justify this consequence by reference to their balance sheets.

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Now this argument which the banks put forward is that at a time when inflation is running into double figures, their deposits should be increasing by a commensurate amount if they are merely to hold the place they have already and that such an increase in deposits is, under almost all circumstances, going to outstrip the growth in their capital base.

This is because under normal circumstances growth in the capital base will arise from the retention of profits after the payment of tax, dividends and dividends to shareholders, and under normal circumstances such profit retention will fall well short of the amount required to increase the capital base by a double figure factor.

Now this is the whole question of what the best measure of the strength of a bank's balance sheet is—whether total capital (shareholders' funds and long-term loan capital) as a proportion of reserves, or free capital (total capital less the money tied up in premises and other fixed assets). The matter is at present exercising minds both in the clearing banks and at the Bank of England. But on the traditional definition (total capital as a proportion of deposits), the balance sheets which Lloyds and Barclays have just published bear the banks' contention out.

This capital, in the form either of shareholders' funds issued or of long-term loan

reserves—or of cash and near cash or by the banks' premises and ancillary assets, such as computer facilities. These assets represent each bank's ultimate redoubt in the event of financial crisis and, as such, have always been used as a measure of balance sheet strength and financial stability.

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Europa

Monetary movements

Because of fluctuations, monetary and financial trends are not easy to follow. The idea of this brief monthly survey is to step back a little from the weekly and even daily random movements in order to identify the most significant recent developments, at the same time tying them in with economic trends, which develop more slowly and evenly.

Our last report drew attention to the very appreciable improvement in the standing of the weak currencies, the franc and sterling, accompanied by the corresponding economic developments, with inflation rates being brought closer to those prevailing in the strong currencies and trade deficits being reduced. Today, a few weeks later, the franc and sterling are once again losing a little ground.

In the case of the franc, despite the success on the services front during December and January, leading by somewhat artificial means admittedly—to a reduction in the rate of inflation from 10 per cent to 7 per cent (whereas it has risen to 5 per cent in West Germany and the United States), the day is far from having been won; with January's sharp rise in the trade deficit, and the political troubles and uncertainty in particular, it remains a suspect currency.

The Banque de France intervened immediately to ensure that the rate did not rise above 4.99 francs to the dollar, which explains the brief rise in the overnight money rate to 10 per cent.

The pound, which had been rising so steeply that the Bank of England was obliged to buy

in more than \$1,000m and half the reduction of minimum lending rate, has also experienced a slight reverse. Granted, the exchange rate has been holding up well at \$1.70, but January saw a sharp rise in inflation, from 16 per cent to 20 per cent, and the gap between this and the 11 per cent at which wages are rising foreshadows difficulties for the third phase of the social contract.

It is nevertheless probable that the franc and the pound will be able to consolidate the ground and the credibility which have been gained since last 1976, and that it will be possible for interest rates to come down further in due course, at least in France. The same cannot yet be said of the lira.

It is one thing for weak currencies only just

entering convalescence to suffer a relapse, but

pressure on a strong currency like the dollar is more disturbing. The situation in the United States at the moment is very confused.

The rise in inflation to 5 per cent and January's record trade deficit of \$1,670m, are putting pressure on the dollar, which is tending to lose ground following its January recovery.

By contrast, the Deutsche mark and the yen in particular are back on an upward trend, a development encouraged by the recent statement from Mr Lawrence Klein, President Carter's adviser, to the effect that, short of action by West Germany and Japan to reflate their economies, he would like to see them revalue by 10 per cent.

Maurice Bommensath

Growth (%)
Industrial production
(1)
Investment
(2)
Wage increases (%)
(1)
Budget deficit (-)
(3,4)
Stability trade balance
(2,4)

THE ECONOMY					
Growth (%) Industrial production (1)	Investment (2)	Wage increases (%) (1)	Budget deficit (-) (3,4)	Stability trade balance (2,4)	
United States +4	+3	8	-3.9% (\$70,000m)	-1% (\$1,250m)	
West Germany +4	+3	7	-4.7% (\$DM57,000m)	2.7% (+DM2,520m)	
France -1	1	14	-2% (-FF30,000m)	-4% (-FF5,000m)	
Britain +3	-2	11	-8.3% (-£9,300m)	-6.7% (-£62,000m)	
Italy +3	-10	25	-10% (-1,340,000m lire)	-4.8% (-520,000m lire)	

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.

(2) Estimate for 1977.

(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.

(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS					
Interest rate (per cent)			Foreign exchange rate		
Annual growth per cent in money supply (ml) (6)	Day to day	Prime rate	Against the dollar (7)	Against a basket of 6 currencies (8)	Change in stock exchange index (per cent) (9)
Dollar 5	4 11/16	6.25	—	102.3 (102.7)	(-5)
Deutschmark 8	42	6.50	2.39 (+1.3%)	112.3 (111.8)	n.a.
Franc 6	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9.60	4.99 (-0.2%)	92.1 (92.7)	-2 (-22)
Pound 3	11	10.50	1.71 (-0.2%)	86.2 (86.4)	2 (1)
Lira (20)	16	20	885 (-0.4%)	78.9 (79.6)	8 (-23)

(6) Six months moving average expressed at annual rate

(7) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month

(8) End December 1975-100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed in table plus Japanese yen

(9) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

Bemrose Corp puffs but trudges on

By Ray Vaughan

Although Bemrose Corporation has grown 19 per cent compound since 1970, the climb proved hard to sustain in the second half of the year to January 1 last.

Exports, which now contribute about a fifth of total sales, should also push ahead, especially since the introduction of sophisticated new security printing and flexible packaging equipment has enabled Bemrose to take business from established overseas competitors.

While happy with its market rating, the group has taken the unusual step of comparing its performance with that of its five main competitors.

Growth in these companies can usually appear more dramatic, the board believes because this often includes recovery.

Its own record is uniquely unbroken since 1974 although comparisons conveniently start before 1973 when Bemrose stumbled on the entry into the transfer printing market.

The shares were unchanged at 64p yesterday. The maximum total dividend of 4.14p puts them on a yield of 6.5 per cent.

CH has 40 pc of Beaver, bid extended

The contested £1.2m bid for Beaver Group has been extended until Friday March 25 following acceptances for 674,500 of the ordinary shares.

With the 90,000 shares held before the offer and the 297,000 bought since the announcement of CH Industries, the old Coventry Hood and Sidescreen, has about 40 per cent of Beaver's equity, nearly 32 per cent of the first preference shares, 71 per cent of the second preference and 74 per cent of the "M" shares—representing 41 per cent of the votes at a Beaver annual meeting.

Beaver, a paint, foam and building group, has been buying its own shares. Heddlewick, Stirling, Grumbar says that it bought 7,500 of them on March 11 at 35p for Beaver.

The Office of Fair Trading has confirmed that no reference will be made to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Business appointments

Hogg Robinson Group has new financial director

Mr J. R. Potts, at present financial director of F. W. Woolworth, has been appointed to the board of Hogg Robinson Group on March 1.

Mr B. J. Butlin has been made deputy managing director of Hogg Robinson (UK). Mr R. Barrett becomes a director. Mr S. H. Jeal and Mr H. W. Jowett join the board of Quinton Hazel (Holdings).

Mr J. E. Brockwell and Mr J. W. Turner are now joint managing directors of Potters International, the UK division. United Kingdom sales and marketing director, is additionally made responsible for overseas sales and marketing. Mr P. R. Armitage joins the board. Mr P. C. Seales has also been appointed as managing director.

Mr T. Vincent Learson has been reelected to the board of Carter-umount.

Mr J. Ross McGibbons is to retire as joint managing director of Whistlers on March 31, but will remain on the board as a non-executive director. Mr D. Cameron Lindsay, at present joint managing director with Mr McGibbons, becomes group managing director on April 1.

Mr Peter Lever has been made managing director of TI Barrow Hope.

Mr G. M. Chichester is now a director of C. E. Heath (Aviation).

Mr Peter J. Parker, formerly of Charles Barker Lyons, has joined the board of Hill and Knowlton UK. He will be succeeded as managing director of Charles Barker by Mr Peter Seale Payne, assistant managing director.

Mr David Nicolson has joined the board of Tradewinds Airways.

Mr David Tandy has become managing director of Caledon Associates, the United Kingdom.

Mr W. Barnes has become managing director of Glavon Entebbe (Northeast) and Mr R. C. Low becomes chairman. Mr B. Gerrish and Mr C. W. Wearmouth have been made directors.

RECORD RIDGWAY

Continued Success

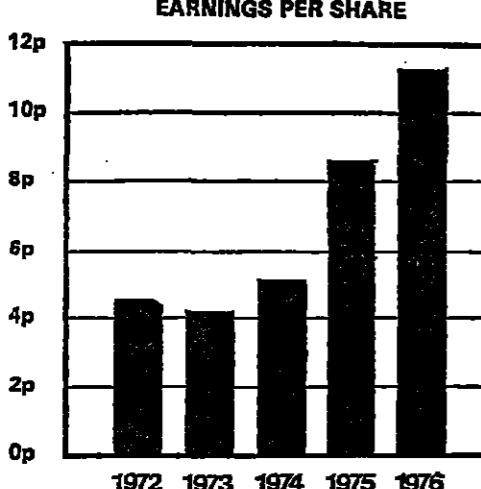
1976 1975 change
£'000 £'000

sales 15,523 11,993 +29%

profit-historical 2,050 1,365 +50%

profit-current cost 937 523 +79%

EARNINGS PER SHARE



For a copy of the report and accounts write to: The Secretary, Record Ridgway Limited, Parkway Works, Sheffield S9 3BL.

RECORD RIDGWAY MAKE QUALITY HAND TOOLS FOR CRAFTSMEN THE WORLD OVER

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Dividend hopes, trade figures a heady brew

The apparent relaxation of dividend controls for companies with high overseas earnings, trade figures at the top end of the range of estimates and hopes of still lower interest rates, helped share prices to reach and hold on to their best levels for almost three and a half years.

The FT Index, 9.7 up at 3pm, gained another 3.3 after the trade figures and by the close it stood a full 13 points better at 42.8, its highest point since November 9, 1973, and breaking through the 42.0 mark. It was also the best daily

in more than \$1,000m and half the reduction of minimum lending rate, has also experienced a slight reverse. Granted, the exchange rate has been holding up well at \$1.70, but January saw a sharp rise in inflation, from 16 per cent to 20 per cent, and the gap between this and the 11 per cent at which wages are rising foreshadows difficulties for the third phase of the social contract.

It is nevertheless probable that the franc and the pound will be able to consolidate the ground and the credibility which have been gained since last 1976, and that it will be possible for interest rates to come down further in due course, at least in France. The same cannot yet be said of the lira.

It is one thing for weak currencies only just

entering convalescence to suffer a relapse, but

pressure on a strong currency like the dollar is more disturbing. The situation in the United States at the moment is very confused.

The rise in inflation to 5 per cent and January's record trade deficit of \$1,670m, are putting pressure on the dollar, which is tending to lose ground following its January recovery.

By contrast, the Deutsche mark and the yen in particular are back on an upward trend, a development encouraged by the recent statement from Mr Lawrence Klein, President Carter's adviser, to the effect that, short of action by West Germany and Japan to reflate their economies, he would like to see them revalue by 10 per cent.

The pound, which had been rising so steeply

that the Bank of England was obliged to buy

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Appointments Vacant also on pages 11 and 14

THE HIGHER PETROLEUM INSTITUTE,
TOBRUK, LIBYA.Needs Highly Qualified Teaching Staff
for the following Departments

A. EXPLORATION DEPARTMENT

Sedimentary Petrology and Mineralogy; Biostratigraphy; Surveying; Photogeology and Geomorphology (Seismic); Petroleum and Subsurface Geology; Petrophysics and Well Logging.

B. PETROLEUM ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Reservoir Engineering and Secondary Recovery; Drilling Technology Production Technology; Drilling and Production Machinery; Transportation and Storage.

C. REFINING AND PETROCHEMICAL DEPARTMENT

Unit Operations; Petroleum Refining Technology; Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics; Natural Gas and Gasoline Processing; Reactor Technology; Fuel Technology; Petroleum Chemistry; Petrochemicals; Unit Processes; Physical Chemistry; Organic Chemistry; Analytical Chemistry; Corrosion.

D. ELECTRICAL AND CONTROL ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT

Electrical Engineering; Power Systems; Industrial Electronics; Communication Engineering; Instrumentation and Control Engineering.

E. MECHANICAL AND MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT

Workshop Technology; Fluid Mechanics; Thermodynamics; Mechanical Design; Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning; Mechanics of Machines; Industrial Engineering; Materials Engineering; Maintenance Engineering.

F. BASIC SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

Physics; Mathematics; Mechanics.

G. ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English Language; Scientific and Technical English.

Preference will be given to candidates with university teaching and/or industrial experiences.

FOLLOWING POSITIONS AND SALARIES WILL BE OFFERED ACCORDING TO EXPERIENCE AS FOLLOWS:—

Professor	LD 5700-6400
Associate Professor	LD 5000-5700
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OTHER BENEFITS:

1. Housing Allowance—100 Libyan Dinars monthly for married (Accompanied with family) or 70 Libyan Dinars monthly for single.
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CANDIDATES ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO SEND CURRICULUM VITAE, PHOTO-COPIES OF CERTIFICATES CONFIRMING THEIR QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE AND TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BEFORE THE END OF APRIL, 1977 TO:—

GENERAL DIRECTOR
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P.O. BOX 201, TOBRUK, LIBYA

Brown & Root (UK) Ltd—world leaders in the design, fabrication and installation of offshore platforms for the North Sea, oil and gas industries have a vacancy for a

Qualified Accountant

to be based at their Raynes Park, SW London office.

Reporting directly to the Company Treasurer the position involves the preparation of regular reports to management detailing the status of the Company's accounts receivable position, constant review of contractual obligations with clients and reports on the financial viability of vendors and prospective clients.

Applicants, male or female, most likely aged 25-35 should preferably have some commercial experience coupled with a background knowledge of computer based accounting systems. This position offers excellent career prospects, carries an attractive salary, negotiable according to qualifications and experience and fringe benefits to be expected of an international company.

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David Thomas, Personnel Officer

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Babu House, 23 Hartfield Road, Wimbledon, SW19 3TR

PURCHASING SPECIALIST
FOR EUROPEAN ASSIGNMENT, POSSIBLY PARIS

Must have extensive experience purchasing heavy construction equipment and plant.

Must be fast and efficient and completely competent in specification writing preparation of detailed tender analysis and purchase order.

Send details of business experience in personal résumé including languages spoken.

Write with photo to:

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CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL GRAINS
INSTITUTE

Invites applications for:

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

LOCATION: Winnipeg, Canada.

DUTIES: To develop, organize and prepare course and written material on international and domestic marketing of grains and oilseeds—to the operation of commodity exchanges and Government marketing boards—grain trading, futures and options on grain futures and related markets—lecture and give lectures and to be responsible for courses offered to overseas and Canadian participants—undertake research studies in these and related areas.

QUALIFICATIONS: University Graduation or equivalent, experience in the marketing of grains. SALARY: Negotiable.

Submit résumé to: Executive Director, Canadian International Grains Institute, 1000-303 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3G7.

CONTRACTS
MANAGER

to organise and negotiate Contracts with authors agents. We seek a person with ability and experience in this kind of work, not necessarily yet at managerial level. Applications to: Mr. Alan Franklin, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 39 Store Street, London WC1E 5AA.

ROUTLEDGE & KEGAN
PAUL

This post is open to both male and female.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY PROPS LTD. OF CATTLE'S HOLDINGS LTD. OF THE FARMING INVESTMENT FUND. The Farming Investment Fund is a registered charity under the Charities Commission for Investigations of the Fair Trading Act, 1973. The proposed acquisition by Prop's Ltd. of Cattle's Holdings Ltd. is the result of their report within a period of five months and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has no evidence on this proposed from other parties. Any person or organisation who has any evidence should write as soon as possible to THE SECRETARY, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 38 Carey Street, London, WC2R 5BT.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Chairman: The Union of Local Government Leagues, Leicestershire. Scheme of transfer of assets to the Local Government Students' Ref. 2277974, 3-L.

The Local Government Leagues have made an order ESTABLISHING a Scheme of transfer of assets to the Charity Commission.

For details, see the Scheme of transfer.

THE SECRETARY, Monopolies and

Mergers Commission, New Court, 38 Carey Street, London, WC2R 5BT.

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THE SECRETARY, Monopolies and

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGES 28 AND 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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The Times

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New Proprietary Square,

Gray Inn Road,

London WC1R 5AU

Details for insertion in the classified columns of The Times are accepted on the understanding that they are to be published as soon as possible after receipt. For insertion in the classified columns of The Times, the advertiser is responsible for the truth of the statements made. We make every effort to avoid errors, but we cannot guarantee that one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are received each day mistakes do occur and we do our best to correct your ad. If you spot an error, please write to the Overseas department immediately by letter to: Box 102-224, West 102, 01-837 1224. Details of the mistake and the correct version should be given. We cannot be responsible for more than one insertion if the incorrect insertion is not done.

we ought to give the mark

we must be held fast at all times

Hebrews 2: 1.

BIRTHS

TONKIN.—On March 8th at Whilton Cross, Hospital in Market (See Births 11th). Son, Steven Douglas Campbell.

TRIMBLE.—On March 10th, 1977, at Great Yarmouth (See Deaths 11th) and Richard—son (John) Simon VANDER STEEN.—On March 11th, at Great Yarmouth (See Deaths 11th) and Robert—a son (James) Howard.

WATTS.—On March 9th, 1977, at Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, to Salomon (See Deaths 11th) and Watson—a son (Howard) William.

BIRTHDAYS

JOHN DARK—Happy 21st—O.I.C.

MARRIAGES

JACOBS.—MATTHEWS.—On March 11th at St. George's Church, London Jimmy Jacobs and Linda Matthews.

MORRIS DEAN.—On 12th March, at London, Westminster Cathedral, Anthony Morris of Brookside House, Welland, and Linda Dean—Upper Severn.

RUBY WEDDINGS

BRANDRETH.—On 12th March, 1957 Charles Danbury, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Mary daughter of Major and Mrs. John Danbury, of 136 Chelmsford Court, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

DEATHS

HARDNER.—On 10th March, 1977, at Tunbridge Wells, James Gardner, dearly loved husband of Margaret. Private cremation.

HICKERTON.—On 13th

1977, after a long illness, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, John Myles Hickerton, F.R.C.S., a surgeon, and his wife, Barbara.

COCKBURN.—On 13th

1977, peacefully, at St. Christopher's Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

MICHETTE.—On 13th

1977, peacefully, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

COSHERON.—On 12th

1977, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

FARRELL.—On 12th

1977, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

COLLIS.—On 12th

1977, after a long illness, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

HARVEY.—On 12th

1977, peacefully, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

NEVILLE-CLARKE.—On 12th

1977, peacefully, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

WALLINE.—Family

Revd. Harold Walline, with his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

CROWE.—On 12th

1977, peacefully, at the Cottage Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

HARROLD.—On 12th

1977, peacefully, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

CONSTABLE.—On 12th

1977, peacefully, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

MAXWELL.—On 12th

1977, peacefully, at his home in Tunbridge Wells, his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, John and Peter.

DUNNITHORPE.—On 12th

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EDWARD.—On 12th

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